Wednesday, November 2, 2011 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 327 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON/OFF/HELP to 4483 | INQUIRER 990AM

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SIZZLING SIBLING WAR Ramon Joseph "RJ" Bautista, 18, younger brother of slain Rangers Jose Bautista (a.k.a. Ram Revilla), is led away by the police after his inquest at the Paranaque Prosecutors' Office on Tuesday. He was arrested early Tuesday in Bacoor, Cavite, for the killing of Rangers. Police said they are also hunting four other suspects, including Ranger's sister, Ramona Belen Bautista. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Revilla's brod arrested

"ONE DAY" Charice quits her concert in Singapore after learning of her father's death. At right, a police investigator examines Ricky Pempengco's body sprawled on a street in San Pedro, Laguna. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Glee to gloom: Drunken fight kills Charice pa

By Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Pachelle Concepcion
Entertainment

INTERNATIONAL pop star Charice dropped everything when she learned of her father's murder even though she had previously been "renouncing" him through she said nothing about his reported "scandalous behavior."

Charice's father was stabbed to death in a drunken street fight in San Pedro, Laguna province, police said yesterday, as the 19-year-old singer continued a concert tour in Singapore to be with her family.

Ricky Pempengco, 41, a construction worker, died instantly from two stab wounds in the chest after an altercation with another man on a street in Barangay Landayan, San Pedro, just be-

CLICK A1

₱1-M monthly purse likely motive–police

By Penelope Bracho
and Ariel Fernandez, Radio Inquirer

DISAGREEMENT over the P1-million monthly allowance from their father, former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., appears to be the motive in the Oct. 28 murder of Rangers Jose Bautista (Ram Revilla in show biz), which was plotted by two of his younger siblings, according to police investigators.

The plot thickened for the three-hit-and-politics Bautista-Revillas, with the victim, suspect and witness-turned-suspect all in the same family, police said. Ramon Joseph "RJ" Bautista, 18, was arrested on the national highway in Bacoor, Cavite province, at around 11:30 p.m. on Monday and was tagged as the mastermind of the murder of Rangers Bautista, 23.

RJ Bautista, a model and

REVILLAS A2

'Cain and Abel' tale stuns show town / A4

Cooperate or stand aside, AFP tells MILF in Basilan

By John Aljuola
in Zamboanga City
and Norman Bordadora
in Manila

THE PHILIPPINE Army deployed special forces troops to track down the killers of 19 soldiers in Basilan province as the government called on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to "cooperate or stand aside."

COOPERATE A13

Zamboanga Sibugay evacuees expected to start going home / A16

CONJOINED twins, Angelica (right) and Angelina Salseco, are to undergo surgery on Tuesday. AP

Conjoined Pinoy twins to be separated

PALO ALTO, California—Two-year-old twin girls who are joined at the chest and abdomen were undergoing final preparations on Monday for a complex surgery at a California hospital that is meant to separate them.

Doctors at Stanford University's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital are planning a nine-hour procedure on Tuesday that, if successful, will allow Angelina and Angelica Salseco to

CONJOINED A13

Sotto: 7th-B baby no RH poster girl

By Christian V. Esguerra

UNITED NATIONS Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has issued a grim warning on the state of the world as its population hit seven billion—"Plenty of food, but one billion people go hungry"—but Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III dismissed it as a potent argument for the passage of the reproductive health (RH) bill.

"Thanks May's birth should be a celebration of life and not be used to spread fear about population growth," Sotto said the day-man by phone, referring to the Philippines' symbolic seventh billionth baby, who was born at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila five minutes before Oct. 31.

SOTTO A6

Hauntings affect property values, say experts

By Tesa B. Salazar

THEY say it's all about "location, location, location." But what if there's something strange going on in the neighborhood?

Property experts agree: Even with the touch of the best architects, designers and designers, haunted homes, buildings or tracts of land can be quite a hard sell.

Alejandro Mañalac, senior vice president of Century Properties Inc.,

HAUNTINGS A4

WORLD
Unesco admits Palestine as member; US cuts funds to UN body/ A21

ENTERTAINMENT
Guy, Osang have mutual admiration going / D6

WORLD
Kim Kardashian files for divorce after 10 weeks of marriage / A21

ENTERTAINMENT
Sexy Starlet snubbed by Hunky Foreigner / D6

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Cloudy skies. Cloyne and Mariano all occasions mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Metro Manila will mainly experience rain showers with temperatures ranging from 24 to 32 degrees Celsius.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Mindoro	Partly Cloudy	San Andres	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Cebu	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Antique	Mostly Cloudy	Surigao	Mostly Cloudy

For more weather forecasts, visit www.inquirer.net/weather

6/42

11 Aug	29	35
14 Aug	8	21
17 Aug	2	17

SUERTRESYA

11 Aug	6	0 9
14 Aug	0	6 8
17 Aug	3	9 9

SIX DIGIT (Jackpot)

0	3	3	8	1	4

4-DIGIT MEGA MIN

10 18 21 26 28 33

PhP3,052,328.00

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

3	5	6	20	36	46

PhP2,661,497.60

LOTTO 3D/2D from 6/58 LOTTO, result in 6/42. PCSO photo

Exasperated, PAL fights back

By Dindo G. Balares

REELING from its dispute with former employees and their supporters, flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) yesterday appealed to the country's business organizations for help in pressing the government to come up with a quicker and more decisive response to the harassment of private enterprises.

In a statement, PAL called on groups such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., Management Association of the Philippines, Federation of Philippine Industries, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, and Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industries Inc., among others, "to collectively appeal for better protection of businesses which are prevented from freely pursuing their trade."

Blocked

PAL pointed out that it was in the best interest of private firms to protect themselves from "harassment," particularly by former workers who end up blockades and other violent illegal operations.

"The recent incident where a PAL catering truck was blocked by protesting former workers turned with truncheons and planks will result to one dire example of this kind of harassment seemingly tolerated by police authorities," the airline's management said.

The airline expressed frustration in complaints and appeals for help from government agencies were "to no avail."

It said its cabin crews and service providers were unable to use the PAL facility on NAIA Road in Pasay City in front of which the former workers had set up a protest camp.

What gains?

"Continuing police inaction against all forms of harassment perpetrated by dismissed workers only serves to embolden these illegal assailants of PAL property," the airline said.

Aggravating the issue, said PAL, was that it was now on the receiving end of "abusive and malicious accusations" by the former employees that it had hired "goons to disperse their camp."

One bystander died of a heart attack and eight ex-workers were injured during the melee that ensued when about 30 men overran the camp.

Weather bureau prodded on flood warning system

By TJ Burgonio

AFTER storms "Pedring" and "Quiel" last month spawned weeks of devastating floods in Central Luzon, disaster response professionals have been asking the weather bureau to help predict how much rainfall would constitute a flood alarm in a certain area.

In response to this, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) is scheduled to develop a model that would allow flood-risk mapping based on analysis of rainfall.

"If you have an amount of rainfall, what's the possibility of a flooding, and what are the areas to be hit by flooding," Pagasa director Prisco Nilo said in a phone interview.

The research will be undertaken by Pagasa and the University of the Philippines' National Institute of Geological Sciences (NIGS), with their Taiwanese counterparts, between now and 2013.

It was actually one of the researches that both the Manila Observatory and Typhoon Ofelia (Nock-ten) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (Tieo) agreed to jointly undertake for the next two years at last week's Third Joint Science and Technology Consultation Meeting in Taipei.

In the aftermath of the disastrous floods, Gener Pang of the Philippine National Red Cross had suggested that Pagasa translate its forecast of rainfall into flood forecasts in certain areas.

Mo. Antonio J. Yulo Jr.-engr. of the Manila Observatory, in an Oct. 10 talk on disaster risk reduction and management, said the weather bureau should communicate in the voice of the people, and tell the public whether "that's two-week rainfall number" or "if they will be flooded until next Xmas."

The other research projects that the Meco and Tieo agreed to undertake concerned pest management in tomato and squash, biodiversity, seismic and near-shore fabric in influences of environmental changes, among others, according to Pasaol.

Tough call for tough DOJ chief

By Marlon Ramos

WHILE most Filipinos spent the long Halloween break with their dear departed in mind, Justice Secretary Leila de Lima had one more thing to contemplate: The fate of ailing former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

The tough-talking justice secretary yesterday admitted that deciding whether or not to allow Arroyo to leave for abroad for medical treatment is the most confidence-testing call she has had to make in her 100 days in office.

"I'm doing a lot of thinking, knowing full well that it's a tough decision to make," said De Lima in a text message to the Inquirer.

Arroyo, now a Pampanga representative, is facing electoral sabotage charges along with her husband and several others in the Department of Justice (DOJ) for conspiring with the alleged rigging of the 2007 midterm election results in Maguindanao and Cotabato provinces.

She was placed on the Bureau of Immigration watch list after a joint DOJ and Commission on Elections investigating panel recommended the filing of charges.

Although she has been considering consulting certain government officials on the matter, De Lima said that when "will weigh very heavily" on her decision will be the report of Health Secretary Enrique Ona on Arroyo's condition.

Ona visited Arroyo last Friday and is expected to submit his report to the DOJ today, De Lima said.

"I expect a written report from Secretary Ona (on) his evaluation of the medical document and personal visit to (Arroyo)," she said.

In an earlier interview, De Lima said she was being "careful" and was considering all factors to help her arrive at a judicious decision on Arroyo's application for an allow-departure order.

"I'm weighing things. I have to be careful here. The decision (both) be correct, (some) sources will complain otherwise I allow her to leave or not," she said.

Recruiters hit OFW offloading at PH airports

By Jerome Aning

THE INQUIRER offloading at the country's airports of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) suspected of being undocumented recruits or trafficking victims is earning all foreign employers in the point that they have stopped hiring Filipinos and have turned to other countries for their labor needs, according to a recruitment consultant.

Outbound legitimate OFWs have complained about being unable to leave after being offloaded on mere suspicion that they were alleged by "unscrupulous" immigration agents at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and the country's other international airports, said Emmanuel Geslani.

He said the latest incident involved a domestic helper working at the household of the Minister of Labor in Malaysia. The helper, who visited Manila last April, is a friend of President Aquino and his family.

Despite the overseas employment certificate issued by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), the helper was offloaded and not allowed to board her flight for Singapore," Geslani said.

Berated

The case of the domestic helper, who was identified only as "Lilibeth," was reported to the POEA by the Philippine labor attaché to Malaysia, Rey Sto. Domingo.

According to Geslani, Sto. Domingo was berated by the Subsec's wife for the failure of her Filipina helper to return and for her "unjustified offloading."

He said various recruitment agencies have reported similar cases of domestic with valid overseas employment certificates (OEC) bound for the Middle East but offloaded "for various illegal reasons or simply profiled to be victims of human trafficking by the Bureau of Immigration (BI) agents."

"It's economic losses for the passengers since they have to pay the travel tax of P1,620 and airport fees of P550 every time they leave for their destinations," Geslani said.

He pointed out that the Labor and Assistance Center was established by POEA at the NAIA early this year to validate all travel documents of OFWs processed by the agency and who are holding OECs.

"So there is no valid or justifiable reason for the BI to unduly delay departure of OFWs except to harass or extort money," he said.

The consultant said OFWs bound for United States military facilities in Afghanistan and Iraq were also victims of "unscrupulous" BI agents who allegedly extort the OFWs to shell out amounts ranging from P30,000 to P50,000.

According to Geslani, with the lifting of the labor deployment ban to US facilities in Afghanistan, OFWs from there are coming home in droves to their respective towns, only to be victimized by airport immigration agents on their return.

"The BI has not stopped harassing the OFWs even if they are allowed to come back to the country and be processed at the POEA to legitimate workers," he said.

Geslani explained that when the OFWs return to Afghanistan, they have to go by way of Dubai to the United Arab Emirates. However, some of the OFWs are not allowed to board their flights or boat because they did not have visas for Dubai.

No visa needed

He said the workers do not need a Dubai visa as they are just transiting through the Dubai airport to take connecting flights for the Kandahar and Bagram airfields in Afghanistan.

"Their maximum stay inside (Dubai airport's) Terminal 2 is anywhere from three to four hours while waiting for their flights to Afghanistan," said Geslani.

Gigamesh Orcilla-Subia Bedelegate, a former immigration commissioner, but that's something to look into the mounting complaints of abuses by immigration agents. The hearing is set to be held this month.

A1

Bishop hails closure of 300 mine tunnels

(8) OFFICIAL of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has welcomed the recent closure of 300 tunnels in the gold-rich town of Tboli in South Cotabato.

Oscar Cruz, Apostolic Radio Veritas, Manila Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez said the local government made the right decision to padlock the mining tunnels to avert a shaft between a tribal clan and members of a cooperative mining tunneling the 20-hectare gold-rich area.

He said the move was a good measure to safeguard what was left of the natural resources in the area as well as to ensure the safety of the miners.

"However, the local government must provide alternative livelihood to those who have been affected by the shutdown," said Gutierrez, vice chair of the CBCP National Secretariat for Social Action.

The South Cotabato provincial government closed the closure order last week to some 300 gold tunnels in Barangay Kematas, manned by small-scale miners.

Author #: 3

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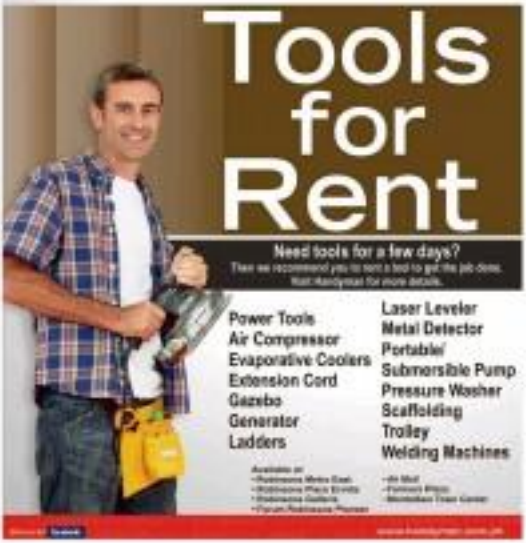

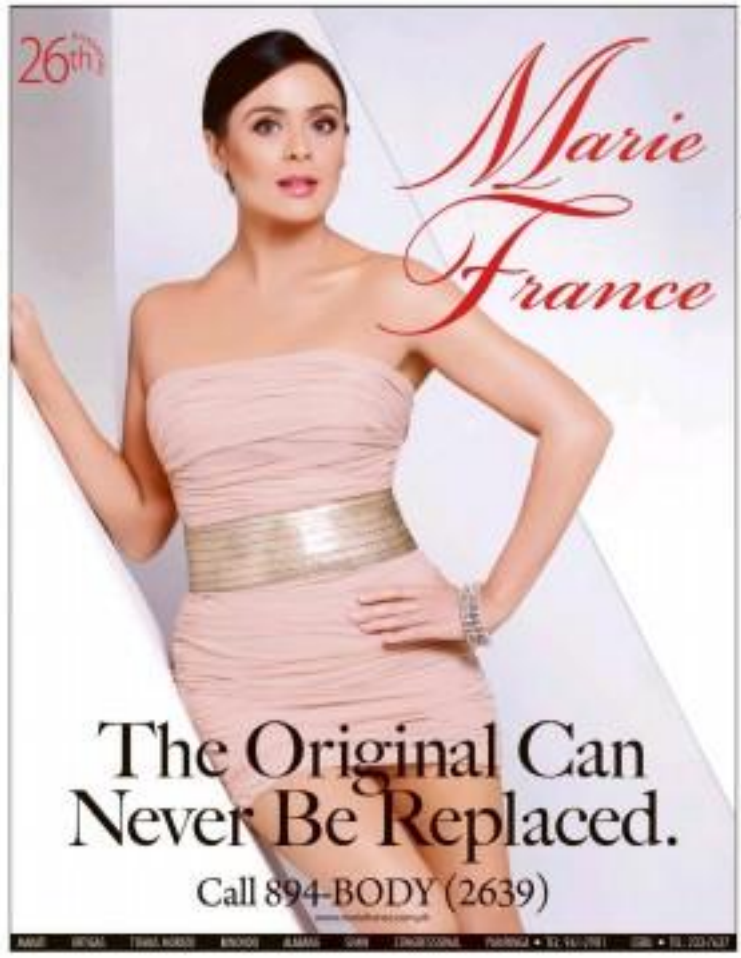

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Revilla's brod arrested; sister also accused

From page A1

business administration student of Eastern Colleges in Tuguig City, was arrested by police shortly after leaving the wake of his slain brother in the town of Ilaya. He was in a black SUV accompanied by "some siblings" when arrested, according to Senior Supt. Billy Beltran.

Four other suspects, including his sister, Ms. Ramona Bernice Ramirez, 22, are being hunted, Beltran said.

Charges of murder and frustrated murder were filed yesterday afternoon against RJ Ramirez for the death of his brother and the wounding of the latter's girlfriend, Jenelle Mendoza, who is still in critical condition in a hospital in Mountain Province.

The other suspects were identified as Hermelo de la Cruz, one alias Bryan, and one alias Elaino.

Ram handled money

It was Ramgen Ramirez, the eldest of the nine children of Revilla by said Gonzlyn Magsayay, who handled the P1-million allowance, police investigators told Radyo Inquirer.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the investigators said the 28-year-old Ramirez refused to cover the assembly expenses of Ramgen Ramirez and his siblings—Ramona, Ms. Rachelle Anne, Ms. Reglelyn, Ramon Joshua, RJ, Raphael Ryan, Ramon Jose and Ms. Ramielyn Lyn.

Their mother has a separate allowance. The investigators said, adding that the money ample enough after Ramona Ramirez's earlier statement that she was abducted by the killers instead of by Ramirez.

Part of the plan

In fact, the investigators said, Ramona Ramirez was just in El Salvadorean in Nasugbu in Cavite, where the family lives.

The wife included in the charge sheet because it appeared that her previous statement that she was abducted by the gunmen after her brother's murder and then abandoned in Los Baños City were "part of the plan," Beltran said.

"Surveillance shows that the van abduction that Ramona claimed was just a cover up, because they witnessed her that [RJ] and Ramon left the establishment earlier [with] minutes of each other," he said.

Beltran said that shortly before midnight on Friday, Ramona Ramirez knocked on her brother's bedroom door and pretended to borrow a video camera to give way to the suspects, who allegedly stabbing a pair friend with a silencer.

"That's why the house help and assistants at home did not hear any of the shots when it happened," Beltran said.

There were 18 stab wounds and one gunshot wound in various parts of Ramgen Ramirez's body, according to the autopsy report. Monahan was stabbed twice in both sides of her chest and was shot in the jaw.

Witness names mastermind

Police said RJ Ramirez was identified as the mastermind by Roel Pascua, a witness who was part of the murder plot but not of the execution.

RJ Ramirez planned the killing and is "the principal suspect by inducement" for hiring two professional gunmen—Michael Jay Cruz Abra and Roy Francis Tolentino—to execute the plot, the Southern Police District Task Force Ramgen said.

Abra and Tolentino were arrested on Monday morning in San Dionisio, Parañaque, along with RJ Ramirez, they were taken at 3:30 p.m. yesterday to the Parañaque Prosecutor's Office where the charges were heard by Assistant City Prosecutor Leah Roma.

The task force is headed by the Investigation Unit head, Chief Insp. Enrique Ilo. The arrested suspects by the Intelligence Unit head, Chief Insp. Fregen Bernal.

3 attempts to kill

Beltran said politics, love triangle and robbery had been ruled out as motives, with the new developments pointing to the "personal" motive.

He said Cruz appeared to be a financial feud among the siblings were their allowances.

Bernal said the gunmen had been promised P200,000 for the killing but that they received only P19,000 as down payment to buy the gun.

"Our investigation showed that they conspired to kill Ramgen but didn't succeed on their first try. The group met and rescheduled, which led to the murder on July 26," Bernal said.

Witness Pascua said the group had initially planned to stage the attack on Oct. 12 but that Ramgen fired by his companion after hearing news of the murder. Beltran said Pascua's statement corroborated the statements of their other informants.

Pascua said Abra was the assigned hitman. But police have yet to establish who drew lots to get Ramirez and Mandaloa on Oct. 26 because the gunman was "masked."

'Don Ramon' in hospital

Revilla Jr., however, in his family in "Don Ramon," was taken to St. Luke's Medical Center in Taguig City at 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

The family's spokesperson, Abbi Pagsalaysay, said the former senator had been complaining of fever and elevated blood pressure since Monday night.

Pagsalaysan said family members were "shocked" by the tragedy of RJ and Ramona Ramirez as suspects.

"This family is distraught, shattered, shocked. We are dealing with a lot of things. First, we were grieving for Ramgen, then this came up. It's just too much," Pagsalaysan said.

In a statement, Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. urged the Ramirez's half brother, also expressed the family's shock over the developments.

"We call on Task Force Ramgen to make sure that the result of the investigation [would] not lead to irreparable damage to the innocents, especially to their family members," the senator said, adding:

"We will not believe that he (RJ) had anything to do with it until it is proven beyond reasonable doubt."

Revilla Jr. called on investigators to examine the "credibility" of the other suspects who had tagged by Ramona. "The statements should be validated, not taken on face value alone," he said.

Brood of 10

Revilla Jr., a former actor, is said to have fathered at least 10 children.

He had seven children with his wife Azucena, who died in 1998. They are Revilla Jr., Ms. Grace Mayor Revilla, Ms. Ramona producers Andrea Brazilian Tavera, and Marlon, Bowers, Filomena and Elaine.

In an interview last December, Revilla Jr. said he had died in 1985. "We need all your prayers."

'Sweet boy'

Mark Dantes, director of the indie film "Faded" in 2009, said the business that the latest developments in the case had left him "speechless."

"He's a sweet boy," the good-natured, "He's cordial and soft-spoken. We laughed all the time on the set."

"He played the younger brother of dead actor Lauro Raymundo in my first film as director. It was Lance who told me about it. I still can't believe what happened," the director said.

The director fainted on passed admiration for the young man's professionalism. "He was always there to support our indie film. He attended screenings when he's the child stars or friends."

Raindel said he could not picture RJ as a murder suspect. "I always thought of him as someone who wouldn't even harm a cockroach. He never showed anything violent. He's sweet and we literally dating our shoot," the director said.

Teen actress

RJ Ramirez was an aspiring actor and model, like his half-brother Raindel.

Their mother, Gonzlyn Magsaysay, was also an actress in the teen years and went under the screen name Jenny Lyn.

In the 1980s, she was in the cast of movies like "Galactus" (the sequel of "Darna"), "Boboy" and "Daddy's Little Darlings."

She joined the TV show "That's Entertainment" in 1986," said German Moreno, who's known as "Kuya Germs."

"Gonzlyn used to call me, to ask help for her son's career. I got Ramon guest in my show."

'Cain and Abel' tale stuns show town

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SIGSIG TOWN is consumed by the twists and turns in the murder of actor Ryangelo Ramirez (also Ram Revilla).

Investigators now have taken a "biblical" turn, transforming the murder case into a modern "Cain and Abel" story, as siblings RJ and Ramona Ramirez are implicated in a conspiracy.

Show biz insiders say that Ram was among the favorites of the father, former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr., especially because he looked like the latter during the actor turned politician's younger years.

"It's true. Ram is the favorite," Lolit Solis, TV host and Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.'s manager told the business.

"The family members feel that because Ramon Jr. got depressed over Ram's death. That's why he lobbied privately for the bill," Solis said. "It's a triple tragedy."

Solis said that with Ram schedule to be buried today at the Angeles Memorial Garden in Hinai, Cavite, "because Ramon Jr. is still in hospital."

"It's sad because you can see and feel how close the Revilla clan is," she said.

Said Boy Lord Mercado, wife of Revilla Jr.: "I think Daddy (Revilla Sr.) and Ram got last saw each other two weeks ago ... during the birthday party of my best friend."

Solis reasoned, saying: "Ram saw Bong and his family as other because Ram considered Bong his (actual-) stepfather brother."

Actor Phillip Salvador, a friend of Revilla Jr., called for justice for the family. "They are going through difficult times," he said.

Mercado said the business

Lashes out at relatives

In another Twitter post, Charice seemed agitated at some private messages from her fellow celebrities. She lashed out at them, accusing them of being irresponsible for keeping her away from her father.

"To my father's siblings, you have no right to say what I'm feeling. What right do you have to say that I'm happy over my father's death? You are only his sister while I'm his daughter," she tweeted in Filipino.

"If you remember, you were the ones who told me to stay away from our father. You told us not to see his name. My mom did not step us from visiting him but you would not let us visit. You have to respect for our family for you to say these words to me. Stop it, you made things worse!

"I know that I had been angry with him. But I never said that I was renouncing him. I have been silent for so long over his problems because I don't want to add the thought that with his death, your attitude is still the same. I am not afraid, least of all of people who have no respect," Charice said.

But in her last tweet before informing her fans that she was cancelling her Singapore gigs, Charice was reflective, digging deep into her memories of her father.

"Last night, I told someone that he looked like my dad. I did not know that my father was making his presence felt. I just want you to know that we had a really great relationship before all the trouble started. So sad me when I was little—and my mom does not actually know this—that he wanted me to be a soldier because I'm brave," she said.

Glee to gloom: Drunken fight kills Charice pa in San Pedro, Laguna

From page A1

bers midnight on Monday.

No opposite to have been a drunken altercation," said Supt. Kirby Kraft, the San Pedro police chief, who noted that both the victim and suspect were drunk at the time of the incident.

Investigators had just come from a drinking spree and was buying cigarettes from a store near his residence when he encountered his assailant, said Kraft.

Police are still searching for the suspect, Angel Capili, 20, a former resident of the village who had moved out in 2008 but was visiting friends on Monday.

Police and Laguna officials have offered a P300,000 reward for the arrest of Capili: Laguna Gov. Ceorge Ejercito pegs up P50,000, San Pedro Mayor Cathren Cataquiz, P50,000, and Senior Supt. Gilbert Cruz, Laguna police director, P50,000.

Ricky Pesigan says that the estranged father of Charice, who was only 2 years old when his separated from her mother, Raquel. It has been widely reported in the entertainment media that the breakup was caused by the former's violent and abusive behavior.

Concerts canceled

Charice mourned her father in a post on Twitter yesterday. She said they had been close until her parents separated and the child stayed with their mother.

"We had a really great relationship before all the trouble started. I loved him and I will still love him. He's still my dad after all," she said.

Charice has canceled her concerts in Nov. 2 and 3 at the Grand Theatre at the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

The singing sensation, whose celebrity-viewed videos on YouTube brought her to the attention of US television hosts Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah Winfrey, both of which gave her crucial worldwide exposure, had been touring Southeast Asia with producer and mentor David Foster.

"I am very sorry to all my fans from Singapore. I am not going to be there to be part of Elton David Foster and Friends concert. I have to go back to the Philippines as soon as possible to be with my family. I hope you all understand. I love you all and I will see you next year," said Charice in another Twitter post.

Waiting for Charice

Shelly Pesigan-quet's mission were brought to the Divine Mercy Worship Chapel in Tanauan, where judge Cruz, where the family awaited Charice's arrival. The singer was scheduled to arrive at 11:45 p.m. last night from Jakarta.

Wearing a black skirt and dark glasses, Raquel refused down interviews from the media yesterday until after her daughter's arrives.

She sat in front of the white coffin with Charice's manager, Ann Mendoza, and a 16-year-old son.

"She's okay for you know how it look (to lose a father). She's still his daughter," Mendoza said of Charice.

Mendoza said Charice had in attacked them not to say anything until after she arrives to personally give a statement in behalf of the family.

"They're okay, except earlier at the funeral parlor (when Raquel broke down)," said a relative who requested anonymity.

Ladies out at relatives

In another Twitter post, Charice seemed agitated at some private messages from her fellow celebrities. She lashed out at them, accusing them of being irresponsible for keeping her away from her father.

"To my father's siblings, you have no right to say what I'm feeling. What right do you have to say that I'm happy over my father's death? You are only his sister while I'm his daughter," she tweeted in Filipino.

"If you remember, you were the ones who told me to stay away from our father. You told us not to see his name. My mom did not step us from visiting him but you would not let us visit. You have to respect for our family for you to say these words to me. Stop it, you made things worse!

"I know that I had been angry with him. But I never said that I was renouncing him. I have been silent for so long over his problems because I don't want to add the thought that with his death, your attitude is still the same. I am not afraid, least of all of people who have no respect," Charice said.

But in her last tweet before informing her fans that she was cancelling her Singapore gigs, Charice was reflective, digging deep into her memories of her father.

"Last night, I told someone that he looked like my dad. I did not know that my father was making his presence felt. I just want you to know that we had a really great relationship before all the trouble started. So sad me when I was little—and my mom does not actually know this—that he wanted me to be a soldier because I'm brave," she said.

TRIPLE TRAGEDY: Former Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. is seen talking with his son Ramgan during his 80th birthday celebration on March 8, 2007 at the Esplanade, Pasay City. Ramgan was killed on Oct. 26 and results of a police investigation showing a younger brother was the "mastermind" have left the whole Revilla clan in a shock.

WAITING FOR CHARICE: Raquel Pesigan-quio, mother of Charice, refuses to take pictures (above) of herself at the wake of her estranged husband Rich at the Divine Mercy Chapel in Barangay Tanauan, Mountaintops City, on Sunday.

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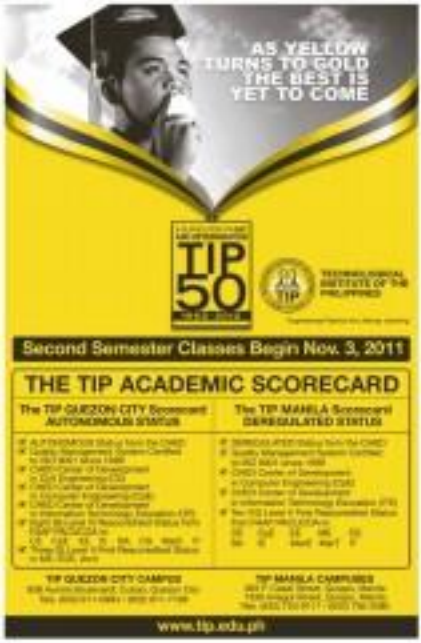
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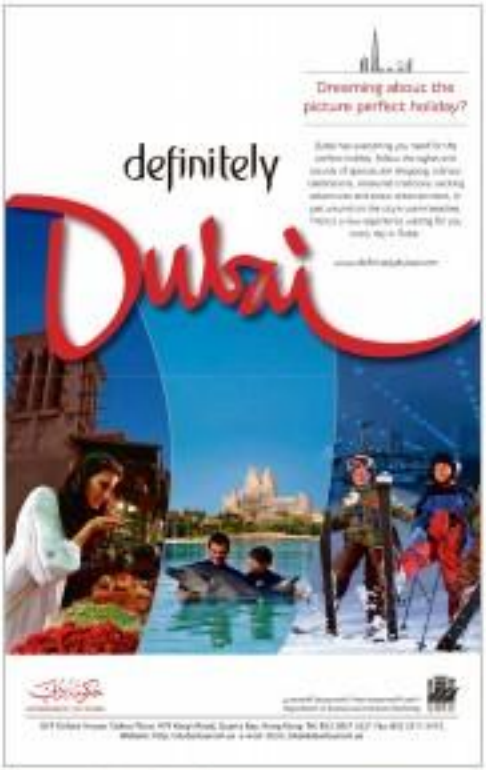
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'SA RING' WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT People flock to view the tombstone of the country's king and presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr. at the Manila North Cemetery on Tuesday.

STRAIGHT FROM THE ACROPOLIS A motorcycle rider, clutching a basket of flowers, passes by a huge mausoleum erected by the Jesus Peoples at the Manila Memorial cemetery on Tuesday. The mausoleum reportedly took 19 years to build and features controlled air-conditioning and an underground crypt.

Hauntings affect property values, say experts

From page A1

put it rather subtly. A property "extension for paranormal activities would cater to a very limited market, which means less demand, which consequently equates to 'difficult to appreciate' values."

Hospital sites

Enrique Soriano, a professor at Ateneo Graduate School of Business and senior advisor at Wong-Bernstein Business Advisory, said the flow of some developers who had engaged the services of paranormal experts to reconfirm properties of otherworldly phenomena as part of the development.

According to Soriano, examples of such sites would be buildings or lots formerly used as hospitals—where people backlined in large numbers.

"Engaging a group to cure and rid the area of undesirable is normal [procedure] for these developers," Soriano said. "I have friends of developers acquiring hospital sites in the past and selling has been [a lot] faster than sites between 'cursed'."

"I can recall [a] friend's [realtor] [who] they are] lost they lose sales momentum. [But] even in First World countries like Singapore, intervention of paranormal experts is part of the development process," he added.

Harmful Earth rays

Atty. Jaime Licauco, an ancient consultant and leading authority on the paranormal, advised property buyers to "factor in" paranormal activities in their decision-making.

The presence of ghosts may be their [up-of-mind] concern, but Licauco said buyers should also watch out for "the very real danger of geopathic stress or harmful negative Earth rays that cause cancer."

Citing the book "Are You Sleeping in a Safe Place?" by Rolf Gordon, Licauco said ancient temples and sacred sites around the world had been found to radiate an energy that drives, proof that in 2004 some people were already aware of such a force and its effects.

Businessman Attily Balompinos said the value of a property can decrease when it arouses fear among people who are aware of its history.

In the United States, rules of disclosure require full disclosure on the part of the owner if a person had died in the property, Balompinos said.

There are no such requirements yet in the Philippines, hence buyers would likely never whether a place had a dark or violent past just by word of mouth, he added.

JUST LIKE RIZZA A mother and her baby are seated asleep on top of a tomb at the Manila North Cemetery.

'Paranormal tours'

But what if the so-called restless spirits simply refuse to leave? Any chance property owners could still cash in on haunted houses as "tourist" attractions?

The concept is not without precedent in the country, Mallabo said.

He recalled that in Baguio City, for example, the old Sports dorm became the "in" place in the country's summer capital in the 1990s for its ghostly presence.

"There are also a couple of popular hotels in the Visayas known for their paranormal activities. One is a 5-star hotel with a casino, and the other one is conveniently located beside a mall," he said.

Mallabo noted that in other countries, the frequented haunts of famous dead people are used as come-ons. "There is the Winchester Mansion in San Jose, California, and another hotel in the East Coast which actually boasts of a 'Amelia Suite' where the ghost of the legendary pilot-lover reportedly makes his presence felt."

Soriano said there are travel service operators in the United States that provide what they call "paranormal tours," something that may be replicated in the Philippines.

That is, if there would be enough thrill-seekers and wannabe ghostbusters who would take the dare.

HIGH-RISE TOMBS People stand on ladders to clean up tombs of their relatives interred in an "apartment style" public cemetery in Mandaluyong City. "Apartment-style" tombs are built one on top of another and are a cheaper alternative for many cash-strapped Filipinos.

HIGH-TECH, HIGH-RISE A family prays in air-conditioned comfort before a vault of their loved one at the Sanctuarium along Brunei Avenue in Quezon City.

Sotto: Don't use 7th-B baby as scare tactic to push RH bill

From page A2

"All this talk about the world's resources not being sufficient to accommodate the growing population is a scare tactic," the senator said.

"They shouldn't try to be smarter than God," he said, referring to those pushing for a population control measure worldwide. "He has a process of life and death and they should not interfere with God's process."

Commenting on Monday on the seven-billion population, Iloilo Representative Oscar Garin Jr. said: "We should really focus on the question of whether there will be food, clean water, shelter, education and a decent life for every child.

"If the answer is 'no,' it would be better for people to look at easing this population explosion."

But Sotto, who is open to passing the need for the RH bill, cautioned by Senators Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Pia Cayetano, argued that even if the world's population doubled to 14 billion, "till it couldn't fit in the state of Texas."

He was mouthing the oft-repeated contention of those opposing the passage of the RH bill to debunk the arguments that the world was becoming smaller with the growing population.

SOTTO: "Enrico's birth should be a celebration of life and not be used to spread misinformation about population growth."

Interpellation resumes Jan.

While the world's population now hitting seven billion, Sotto said he was anticipating that the Senate debates on the RH bill would shift to the need for population management.

The Senate had shelved Senate Bill No. 2865 and all other measures to concentrate on deliberations on the proposed 2012 national budget for the rest of its session this year.

Sotto said interpellation on the bill would resume in January and would involve nine more senators: Sergio Osmeña III, Ramon Revilla Jr., Antonio Trillanes IV, John Arroyo, Manuel Lapid, Manuel Villar, Gregorio Honasan and Loren Legarda.

Tom Iloa, Sheilla Lasota, an author of a version of the RH bill, was listed among the interpellators, according to Sotto.

Proponents of SB 2865 had earlier said the measure was not intended to control population but merely to provide access to information on reproductive health.

But Sotto said they had "consistently" ignored mounting findings showing that many of the original birth control methods used in the measure—which would be made available by the RH bill using taxpayers' money—were "abortifacients."

"We have reminded the world time about those birth control methods and I won't be surprised if the debates shift to population management, especially with the population now at seven billion," he said.

'Not a matter of area'

In its official website, Pro-life Philippines Foundation Inc. cited "basic calculations by area [that] all six billion people on the earth today would fit within the state of Texas [the biggest in the United States], with each family having a house with a lot to call its own."

"So, it is not a question of area. The problem is the growing concentration of large numbers of people in certain cities, caused by the disinformation and lack of opportunities in the rural areas. This migration to cities, occurring mostly in developing countries, has left most of the countryside uninhabited, while the cities are confronting serious problems with basic infrastructure, health services, food supplies, education, transportation, sewage disposal, and housing," it added.

In the Philippines, the population density was 260 persons per square kilometer, according to the results of the National Statistical Coordination Board's 2007 Census of Population.

Metro Manila was the most congested by region with a population density of 18,650 persons per sq km.

'Terrible contradictions'

At a press conference to mark the UN declaration that the world population had reached seven billion, Ban said the world was marked by "terrible contradictions"—"[with] [d]espite [or a few] but poverty for too many others."

"What kind of world has baby seven billion born [with] this? What kind of world do we want for our children to the future?" Ban said.

He said he would take his message that world leaders need to handle inequality in the Group of 20 summit in Cannes this week.

"We cannot burn our way to the future, as the stress of destroying our planet. And we have to empower women and young people. Around the world, they have taken to the streets demanding their rights, more opportunities and a voice in their future," he said.

Indian Health Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad said the birth of the seven billionth child was "not a matter of joy but a great worry."

"We shouldn't be celebrating," he said. Similar to an interview with The Times of India. "For us, a matter of joy will be when the population stabilizes."

India's population, the world's second biggest at 1.2 billion, is set to outpace China's by 2025, according to an interview bureau. With a report from AFP

DepEd hopes to rekindle interest in reading

By Tara Quintanilla

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepED) is hoping to bring back the interest of school children in reading instead of them spending too much time on the Internet.

DepEd has declared November as the National Reading Month and has urged schools and learning institutions to conduct a month-long reading program to restore the youth's interest in the printed word.

In a memorandum issued last week, Education Secretary Armin Luistro ordered school officials to conduct various reading activities in schools and other learning facilities, among them a Read-a-Thon, "Drop Everything and Read (Dear)" and remedial reading classes for children.

The program is part of DepED's move to institutionalize the national "Every Child a Reader" program, Luistro said in his Memorandum No. 244.

DepEd is initiating programs that would promote reading and literacy among the pupils and students, motivate our youth to learn from the lives and works of eminent Filipinos, uphold one's own heritage and culture and make reading a shared physical experience," said Luistro in his memo.

He said the program is one means to make reading relevant again to the youth "amidst the growing reliance on the Internet and media in online activities."

Among activities DepEd has dropped in November are the Read-a-Thon, which aims to discover outstanding readers in class; the Beat program, which engages students in 15 to 20 minutes of whole-school silent reading; and the students' mentoring program, where older students are encouraged to assist younger readers with reading difficulties.

The National Reading Month also urges schools to build vocabulary and "A Paragraph A Day" sessions, where students learn one new word a day and read aloud one or two paragraphs every day to boost their speaking skills.

DepEd has also called on schools to conduct reading camps "to highlight the pupils' talents in communication arts through competitions," storytelling sessions and other readership development activities.

"Schools are also encouraged to partner with non-government organizations and the private sector to foster cooperation within the community and optimize the success of these activities," Luistro said in his memo.

MRT builder ordered to pay construction firm ₱58M

By Marlon Ramos

THE COURT of Appeals (CA) has ordered the Metro Rail Transit Development Corp. (MRTDC) to settle the over ₱58 million damage claim filed against it by a construction firm.

Common Pleas Inc. had sued MRTDC for breach of contract.

In a 31-page ruling, the appellate court dismissed the MRTDC petition seeking a reversal of the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC) decision directing that the latter pay the unpaid progressbillings per Comman for last revision.

Common had sought the CIAC's intervention to recoup over ₱58 million it lost when MRTDC, builder of the elevated train system along Edsa, rescinded its contract for the concrete works of a structure of the MRT-3 North Triangle Development Project in 2008.

"Considering that the CIAC's decision is fully supported by substantial evidence and applicable jurisprudence, this court cannot but sustain it," said the CA in a resolution dated Oct. 14.

Associate Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura wrote the decision that was concurred in by Associate Justices Jane Lantion and Ramon Unit.

In dismissing MRTDC's petition, the court said the consortium's allegation of liability was "bordering" resting close to bad overlook in its fundamental obligations to Common in one of its pleadings filed with the arbitration body.

According to the court, there was "ample basis on record" to show Common's right to demand monetary claims for the services it had rendered prior to the termination of the contract.

"It is well settled that judicial admissions cannot be contradicted by the party making it and who is thereby bound by it and, absent any showing as to this case, that this was made through a palpable mistake, no amount of rationalization can affect it," the appellate court said.

Manufacturers seek delay in plastics ban

By Kristine Felisse Marquez

A CONFEDERATION of plastics manufacturing companies has asked the Senate to wait for the results of a study on the actual environmental impact of their products before passing a law banning the use of plastic bags in the country.

In a position paper submitted to the Upper House, a copy of which was obtained by the Inquirer, the 180-member Philippine Plastics Industry Association based in Caloocan City requested legislators to hold their judgement while rushed studies on the supposed impacts of plastic products on the environment are undertaken by the National Solid Waste Management Commission (NSWMC).

The 18-page position paper was in response to Senate moves to pass a law that bans the use of plastics in the country.

In August, the House of Representatives passed on third and final reading Bill 4840, or the Plastic Bag Regulation Act of 2011, which seeks to prohibit the use of non-biodegradable plastic bags.

According to the manufacturing group, a "fact-based scientific approach" using a life-cycle analysis was necessary in the evaluation of plastic items use regulation or ban as the products would have "unintended repercussions."

It said that among those was the "displacement of (the plastic) labor force," which, should it occur, would be contrary to the nation's objective of providing much-needed jobs ... to address increasing unemployment and underemployment."

The PPIA estimates 275,000 people are working in the plastic manufacturing industry and pegs the number of local plastic manufacturers and processors at 500, many of which, it said, were small- and medium-scale enterprises.

"Industry calls on stakeholders to await the result of deliberations ... to determine (plastic's) environmental impact," the position paper said.

Under the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, the NSWMC is mandated to evaluate products or packaging that are perceived to be "unsafe to produce, use, post-consumer use, or to produce or release harmful byproducts when discarded."

Plastics packaging—plastic bags included—are among the products to undergo an assessment by a technical working committee headed by the Department of Science and Technology through the NSWMC, which, under the law, will also determine if the products should be prohibited, the group said.

In addition to this, the PPIA said the ban on reusable materials as alternatives to plastic bags should also be "carefully studied" since the latter may in the end also pose threats to the environment and to the public's health.

Shifting to [reusable materials] may pose health risks if improperly washed or cleaned[...] Cited poor cleaning of non-woven/woven fabrics/bags," the group said.

Correction

IN THE OCT. 31 ISSUE, a front page story on "Close encounters with aliens (ufo)"—mistakenly identified the Prince of the Heavenly Army who is ranked sixth leading angels in the final battle against evil spirits. It is St. Michael not St. Gabriel. St. Gabriel is the Heavenly Messenger.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 2 (Wednesday)
Psalter: Proper
All Souls Day
Ps 22:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1st Reading: Wis 3:1-9

The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them. In the eyes of the unwise they appear to have died. Their going from us is a disaster; it seems that they have ceased to exist altogether. But they are at peace. Though outwardly they have been punished, inwardly they are filled with the hope of immortality. After a few years' testing, they will receive great blessings, for God has tested them and found them worthy to be with him, after testing them as gold in the furnace, he has accepted them as a holocaust. At the time of his coming they will shine like sparks that run through the stubble. They will govern nations and rule over peoples, and the Lord will be their King forever. ...

Gospel: Mt 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all his angels, he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be brought before him, and as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ...

"The King will say to those on his right, 'Come, blessed of my Father! Take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me into your house, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the good people will ask him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food, thirsty and give you drink, or a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to see you?' The King will answer, 'Truly, I say to you, whenever you did this to these little ones who are my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are accursed, into the everlasting fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels! For I was hungry and you did not give me food, I was thirsty and you did not give me drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me into your house, I was naked and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ...

Reflection:

How do we measure the life of a man? When a man dies, what do we remember to have? Is it his monetary riches? Or his fame? Is it the number of appearances of fame with that person, or was only symbolic ego, "How about love? Measure in Love? How do we keep the memories of our departed loved ones alive in our life? Their legacies of love will forever be kept alive and share this same experience of love to others. This only way to give justice to what they have left us is to keep the fire of love for our single, but diverse humanity. We are the keepers of the seeds of people for our life-loved lives.

Across the NATION

DPWH suspends Cebu flyover projects

By Philip C. Tubeza

PUBLIC Works Secretary Rogelio Singson has put on hold the construction of two flyovers in Cebu City following protests over the controversial projects.

Singson said he decided to order the suspension of the projects after meeting with leaders of civic society groups from Cebu.

He, however, said yesterday that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) would proceed with widening the intersections on streets where the flyovers were supposed to be built.

"The problem is...if the people of Cebu object to that, we would not insist," Singson said.

"We have put on hold the construction of two flyovers in Cebu and instead we would proceed with the widening of these intersections," he said.

The first planned flyover at the intersection of M.J. Cuenco Avenue and Gen. Maxilom Avenue costs P400 million while the second one supposed to have been built at the junction of Acasenio Avenue and Archbishop Reyes Avenue.

Singson said he would wait for Cebu City officials to complete a master plan for the city before deciding whether or not to proceed with the flyover project.

A different story

"That issue will come back again and again as civil society and NGOs oppose it," Singson said.

He said that the construction of the flyovers was approved by the local government and other agencies.

"But if civil society and NGOs find that some of those approvals were unfounded, then we said that is a different story," Singson said.

"So, the argument was that we would put on hold the construction of the two flyovers...instead, we would proceed with widening," he added.

A group of some has joined protests against the flyovers, regarding prayer rallies and giving out stickers in protest rallies to stop the projects.

On Oct. 1, some belonging to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul held a dawn procession at first to seek divine guidance on how to respond to threats posed by the flyover projects on parts of the same compound.

Prayer power

Part of the compound of the Asilo de la Milagrosa at Gorordo Avenue, the nuns' home, sits on the path of the flyover projects.

DPWH officials realize cold they would realign the projects so to reduce their impact on the Asilo.

Augustarius Hermoso, legal officer of the DPWH in Central Visayas, said design changes have to be made to protect the Asilo compound.

Cebu politicians earlier voted to ride on the protests, issuing statements appealing to the project contractors, RTG Construction, to spare Asilo.

The nuns have the support of the 3,000-strong Movement for Livable Cebu, a multisectoral group against the construction of more flyovers in Cebu.

Cordillera peace pact offers arms deal showcase

BAGUIO CITY—The regional administration wants a peace deal with think tebel priest Conrado Balweg's rebels to work to use it as a showcase of the final solution to the threat posed by a rebel group in northern history, a top Palace official recently said.

Undersecretary Mirla Gloria Sandoval, of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp), discussed the progress made in overseeing the implementation of the Cordillera Regional Development Council (RDC).

Sandoval said Opapp's chief mandate was "to reduce the number of armed groups in the country," and the office made by OPA Chair Annabelle Hamming to disband the militia "was totally new to us."

Opapp Asst. Irene overseeing the conduct of peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and smaller armed groups, like the Revolutionary Proletarian Army/Alex Boncayao Brigade.

Peace talks have not reached the stage achieved by negotiations with the CPLA, Sandoval said of the RDC.

The RDC had issued two resolutions on Sept. 12, urging Malacañang to suspend the July 16 deal with the CPLA and to clarify Executive Order No. 60, which asks all agencies to support the agreement.

RDC members objected to the description "chronic agreement" that Malacañang uses in documents detailing the implementation of the 1,000-spot terminus of Sandiboni made by Balweg and President Aquino's mother, the late former Pres. Corazon Aquino.

They said the agency-legal resolution should have been the creation of a Cordillera Autonomous Region, a point also raised by a CPLA faction led by lawyer Andres Nipaya, an RDC member.

Mr. Aquino addressed the conflict one week here in August.

Nipaya, however, said peace should not stop with the signing of the agreement but must go beyond to the grassroots "to make the deal."

Opapp has been requesting yearly budgets for 37 villages where CPLA members live, Sandoval said.

Instead of new allocations, government will pursue those projects using existing budgets and programs being implemented by all agencies geared primarily directly otherwise, she said.

Sandoval said Opapp and the Department of Social Welfare and Development have started a survey to determine the economic condition of CPLA members. Vincent Cabreros, Inquirer Northern Luzon

PEACE IS FUN
At least 2,000 elementary pupils and high school students in Lanao del Norte participating in annual event...called Pilgrimage for Peace, held on Dec. 27-30 calling for an end to fighting in Mindanao between Moro separatist guerrillas and government soldiers.

300 trees to be 'sacrificed' for road project

BAGUIAN CITY—More than 300 trees in Bicutan Highway spanning Binalonan and Asingan towns in Pangasinan would either be cut, pruned or transferred to make way for a road widening project, an environmental official said.

Lorlaine Co, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have conducted an inventory and identified 324 trees that have been marked by cutting (marked with "X") and pruning (marked with "P").

Co, however, clarified that a proper law yet to be issued for the tree cutting.

These trees are considered important species. They include mahogany and narra, some of which are 30 years old, she said.

The provincial environment office would recommend whether the trees would be cut, pruned or bolted. The recommendation would be sent to the DENR regional office for further screening and then forwarded to the office of the environment secretary for approval.

Emmanuel Uriel, DPWH district engineer, said more than 40 trees would be cut, "so we cannot go on with the project." Co said these trees are on or very near the highway's shoulder.

"We cannot do anything because [the road widening] is a very important project to relieve traffic congestion. The cutting of trees was also allowed along the highway in Urdaneta City. There is no other option but to sacrifice some trees," she said. Edmundo Sotelo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Burial ground brings priests, nuns together

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

SORSOGON CITY—In life and in death, they look after each other.

Priests and nuns who have died are well cared for by their colleagues through Masses, prayers and upkeep of the common burial ground in the Holy Mary Mount of Poth here.

"They're together, heaven, in life and in death, we belong to one another and to the Lord. It's an expression of solidarity and communality," said Archbishop Prisco Baradero, head of the Archdiocese of San Fernando in Pampanga. The diocesan of Barcelo, Zambales, Taylor said Nueva Ecija belong to the archdiocese.

"We, who have served the Lord in life, should also rest together from our labor in the same resting place," he said, further explaining why Archbishop Oscar Cruz, in his state as head of the Holy Rosary Parish Archdiocese, established the "Chapel of the Resurrection for the Clergy" on a plot at the cemetery in Barangay Cotmon here.

The plot keeps the remains of all diocesan priests, three Dominican sisters and three brothers to date.

The oldest remains buried there belonged to Msgr. Felix David who, according to his epitaph, was born in 1882.

LIVING priests and nuns maintain their spiritual connections with colleagues who have gone to the other life through Mass, prayers and maintenance of a cemetery for the departed religious.

Old tombstones was used the gated cemetery, which was completed in 1985 and under the care of the Holy Rosary Parish in the city.

Diocesan celebrations to celebrate its founding anniversary every May 31 and Nov. 3, a.m. a.m., a lot showed, a circular altar with a hanging wooden figure of Christ is at the center of the chapel.

Around the outside, the chapel looks like a 40-level tall pyramid. But interior said that isn't the case.

"It's more pyramidal. It's heavenly, celestial [to connect] resurrection. It's pointing to heavenward, like the Tower of Babel or Cluny," he said of the structure.

But all dioceses in the Philippines have cemeteries for priests and nuns, said Diosdado Gay, the priest in-charge of the cemetery.

Gay said some priests who died in remote areas just near by buried elsewhere and later exhumed were transferred to the cemetery.

He said from "beyond a common burial site for priests, in which priests who are still alive could look after [them]" and say Mass for those in the chapel long after they are forgotten by their own blood families."

"That way, priests could also be assured to feel that their brother priests are really their immediate family," he added.

Every year, during All Saints' and All Souls' Day, the place is packed with priests, nuns and relatives of the dead. They pray in the chapel or under the shades of trees, making the place look more like a quiet picnic ground than a cemetery.

500 cooperatives in Davao pool funds to adopt watersheds

DAVAO CITY—At least 500 cooperatives have agreed to pool resources to finance efforts to save the city's supplies by planting new trees and putting a stop to the cutting of old growth trees.

Tagged "Adopt a Site," the project was put together by the Davao City Water District (DCWD).

The cooperatives agreed to each set aside P6,000 for seven hectares of watershed that they would "adopt" under the project.

Agrapino Torres, vice chair of the Davao City Cooperative Development Council, said the agreement with DCWD would solve a significant amount for the city's supplies but also help contributing to the city's worsening floods.

In June, over 30 people were killed and thousands of others were displaced when floods hit four villages of the city.

Though recognizing that deforestation was one of the culprits for the disaster, the city government also pointed to clogged drainage systems and the lack of flood control projects.

Two weeks ago, Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson said during a visit here that his agency was ready to build flood control projects, like catch basins, but the city government should do its part by moving illegal settlers out of the area.

"We should make sure the waterways are cleared of illegal occupants and structures. This is the more immediate solution. We will do the physical intervention but not the social intervention," Singson said.

He said catch basins are considered a long-term solution to flooding but the immediate solution is to clear waterways of illegal occupants and structures.

"With climate change, the rainfall that is supposed to be for three months fell in just three days that's why we have excessive floodwaters. Thus, we need to round that water up...dioxins to be used for irrigation and must especially for control flood," Singson said.

He said by catching rainfall in basins, water will be stored for other use instead of rushing up as flood downstream. "We cannot afford to have this kind of catastrophe every year," said Singson. Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao

Cebu, with ₱3.2-B income, seeks ₱11.8-B budget

By Doris C. Bongcac
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—The rift between outbuilder Tomas Osmeña and Michael Rama has taken a deeper dive over Rama's proposed P11.8-billion budget that Osmeña tillers in the city council said couldn't be funded with the city's existing revenue measures.

Rama, incumbent mayor, had summoned department heads to boycott a pre-budget hearing called recently by the city council to discuss his proposed budget, setting the stage for another showdown with his critics allied with Osmeña. Former mayor said were compromised.

The ₱11.8-billion budget sought by Rama is more than 269 percent higher than the current city budget of ₱3.2 billion.

Ten councilors, mostly allies of Osmeña, said the biggest question was where to get the money.

Councilor Alvin Dizon said he found a difficult to believe that the city could raise revenues to fund the proposed budget.

Second Deputy City, one of the country's richest, had a proposed budget of ₱3.1 billion for 2012, but it has the revenues to fund it. Quezon City, Dizon said, has 69,133 registered businesses and raised ₱10 billion in taxes as of September.

Cebu City, on the other hand, only has 28,000 registered businesses and raised only ₱1.2 billion in taxes as of September. It has a shortfall of at least ₱800 million in its current budget.

Rama asked department heads not to attend the pre-budget hearing and instead be present when the council holds its regular session on the proposed budget.

The reasons at a press conference on Oct. 28, said he stopped the department heads from attending the pre-budget hearing because questions "can be addressed in the regular budget hearing."

Councilors, mostly allies of Osmeña, were miffed. They wanted they might vote on the proposed budget, having the city to run a truncated budget.

The mid-term is due after Osmeña criticized Rama for trying to "consolidate" city hall operations and accused the mayor of trying to build a political machinery for his re-election in 2013.

Rama has stripped councilors of representative functions over commission and special bodies, which they used to enjoy when Osmeña was mayor from 1992 to 1998 and from 2001 to 2010. Rama placed these commissions and special bodies under his office.

Councilor Margot Osmeña, wife of Hep. Osmeña and chair of the council's budget committee, said out invitations to seven city hall department heads, including City Treasurer Tessie Cerentella, asking them to attend the Oct. 27 pre-budget hearing.

The council proposed lunch for the pre-budget hearing scheduled at noon. But no hour passed and not a single department head showed up.

Negros city 2nd 'most livable'

By Nestor F. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A Negros Occidental city is the second most livable city in the world for a population not exceeding 250,000.

During awarding rites held in South Korea on Oct. 21, San Carlos City was cited as the second most livable among cities with a population of 75,000-250,000.

The most livable city only that kind of population was Yangyeong in South Korea, where the awarding rites were held for the UN-backed International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom).

The third most livable city in that category was Nanyoro, also in South Korea, according to the LivCom website.

The award awards recognize cities based on their performance in several criteria, including environmental practices, healthy lifestyle of citizens, community involvement, arts and cultural heritage.

San Carlos was the only Philippine city cited twice in the "whole city awards." It also won the "Special Whole City Award."

The contest for cities has five categories based on their average daytime population of 25,000 to those with over 400,000.

This year's awards had 77 finalist cities from 28 countries, the largest so far in the awards' 11-year history, according to a LivCom statement.

More geothermal power in Negros

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—The Energy Development Corp. (EDC) expects to contribute 20 more megawatts to Negros Island once its Nasulo geothermal project in Palinpinon I starts. The geothermal resource operation in 2014.

Dwight Mataco, EDC vice president for the Northern Negros Geothermal Production (NNGP) Field, recently said the company's 40-MW equipment would be transferred from the NNGP plant in Biliran City to the Palinpinon geothermal power plant.

Mataco said transferring NNGP's equipment would allow the firm to make better use of the 40-MW facility to produce more power as the Manito steam field and offer it to customers, including electric cooperatives in Negros Occidental.

The EDC temporarily shut down the NNGP operations in November last year for further studies.

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor: Jun Bandayrel
Across Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

In flood-prone areas, why not floating gardens?

By Anselmo Roque
Inquirer City of Manila

DON'T DESPAIR if your home is swallowed by floods or marshlands when the monsoon rains set in. You can still produce the food you need by constructing easy-to-make floating gardens that have thrived well in countries such as Indonesia and Bangladesh.

These gardens thrive on 4 x 1 meter-long bamboo rafts where people can produce leafy vegetables, such as mustard, parsley, upland "kangkong" (swamp cabbage) bush "chive" (Etsoi), and even rice, said Dr. Eduardo Amante Quilang, deputy executive director for development of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija.

Quilang heads a team, composed of researchers Abby Tilmoniec, Fikol Cruzado, Jessan Rivera, Arlyssa Quijano and Elmer Alcantara, which had been commissioned to study the impact of floating gardens, using funds provided by PhilRice and the Department of Agriculture.

Now on its third season, the study has been evaluating the efficiency of locally available materials for the floating gardens and the adaptability of certain crops for growing and production under these conditions. In Muñoz, the progress of nine floating gardens at a big pond near PhilRice's crop science building is being observed.

Very promising

The technology appears very promising, as Philippine farmers based on initial results, according to Quilang. "The modification of traditional cultivation methods is [necessary] to [help farmers] adapt to the effects of climate change.... A floating garden is a one possible alternative to continuous farming to reduce impact of climate change," he said.

Basis for the construction of the garden is the raft, which is made of bamboo poles fastened together. The frame is started with twine piled on top of each other until the layering is solid enough to hold a 25-centimeter thick layered of garden soil, organic fertilizer and carbonized rice hull.

PhilRice tested several materials for floaters to weigh the raft down and stabilize it. These included weighted bamboo, matured coconuts, empty plastic bottles and a pile of stone by-stalk.

Broken, roughing and matured were planted in the raft gardens during last year's long drought and rainy period, and again during this year's monsoon season. No commercial fertilizer, pesticides or insecticides was applied.

Harvests from the garden that floated on 1.8-liter plastic bottles turned out to be superior. The researchers concluded that the bottles provided better buoyancy compared to coconuts or piles of by-stalk.

Buoyancy

"The productivity of floating gardens appeared dependent on the buoyancy," the study said.

The garden tested under a monsoon produced 581 grams per square meter of pechay, 942 grams per sq m of kangkong, and 642 grams per sq m of mustard under a monsoon. But the yields improved under rain made during the dry spell, producing 1,370 grams per sq m of pechay and 1,166 grams per sq m of kangkong.

Quality harvests were also produced in the garden that floated on water by-stalk, but this still sank when the by-stalk decomposed.

Where rice was planted in the garden using weighted-down bamboo poles, it yielded 11.4 grams per sq m of grains.

Matured coconuts turned out to be poor choices for floaters because the gardens they supported on the water had the lowest vegetable yield.

"We will try using bigger floaters like plastic drums. They may tend to provide greater buoyancy," Dimasuco said.

The team considered a floating garden to have moisture issues, so only built for floaterwaters, but it was covered

A FLOATING GARDEN is offered as an alternative food production method in flood-prone areas, marshes, lakes and reservoirs. Simple plant bottles can be used as floaters of the bamboo raft that carries the garden, as the experiment at the Philippine Rice Research Institute shows. INQUIRER PHOTO

with a roof to protect the plants from strong rains.

"We will be using bigger floaters like plastic drums. They may tend to provide greater buoyancy," Dimasuco said.

The team conducted a floating garden in three monsoon seasons, a costly task for floaterwaters, but it was covered

away by the spate of floods that occurred following the onslaught of two typhoons recently. "It should have been provided with stronger anchor," Dimasuco said.

The team will also conduct a field trial of the floating garden in the municipalities of Aguinaldo del Sur. "There is a floating village there where 20 families reside. The floating garden may provide them additional sources of food in just a short time. They can harvest leafy vegetables in just 24 days after sowing," Dimasuco said.

Some residents near the Bantalingan Dam reservoir in Nueva Ecija are now eager to set up their gardens, she said.

The team will introduce the technology to fishpond owners. "The umbrella of the floating garden can serve as refuge for the fish during bad weather. It can help prevent fishkill," Dimasuco said.

Weather-proof fish cages seen as savior of aquaculture industry

By Gabriel Cardenas
Reporter, La Union

MARINE biologist Al Sobrejuanite was not a bit worried about the fish cages he is installing off the coast of Rosario town in La Union, when Typhoons "Pedring" and "Quiel" left the country through the Lingayen Gulf in September and October.

Like in the past, he was confident that the 28 cages stocked with a variety of high-value fish would not be crushed by huge waves that the successive typhoons induced as they plowed through the gulf.

"They are rope-framed cages. They are weather-proof," Sobrejuanite says.

Again, he was proven right. Not one of the cages was damaged. All 28 were intact and millions of pesos' worth of high-value fish saved.

Sobrejuanite's company Tiger Property Development Group Inc. (Tiger), is the first to adopt the rope-framed cage technology on a large commercial scale after the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) organized offices in San Fernando City in La Union developed and introduced it in 2009.

The cages occupy a portion of a 10-hectare marine-farm area about a kilometer from the shoreline of Barangay Baul in Rosario. The company grows "pompanos" (silver pompret), "tilapias," snapper and knot-eyed "lapuyo" (milkfish).

"We are now in the fish cage industry at that time and we did not quite know how to go about it. So we sought the help of the BFAR," Sobrejuanite says. "When the BFAR told us about the rope-framed cage, we immediately fabricated one and used it."

Today, Tiger is the leading pompano distributor in northern Luzon, regularly supplying popular restaurants in the area and Metro Manila. It's also the leading rope-framed fish cages, selling them to fish cage operators who have begun to shift to the new technology.

BFAR first tested the rope-framed fish cage in 2008 when its prototype was completed after a year of study.

"We first deployed it in the waters off Baslet, Davao Region, because the environment around there is not super. There we tried it in Rosario, La Union, where the waves are bigger," says the bureau's regional director, Nestor Domondon, who led the development of the fish cage.

Fishkills

"There are extreme [water] conditions and the cages have withstood all these," he says.

The rope-framed fish cage technology Domondon recalls, was born out of the need to find solutions to the recurrent and devastating fishkills in many fishery areas of the country.

Fishkills occur, he says, because fishing structures have crowded the sheltered nautical, fast zones, such as rivers, lakes and coves.

"These structures were built too close to one another, preventing the water to refresh naturally, producing water pollutants in the process," Domondon says. The only solution, he says, was to disperse the fishing structures.

"But the question was: Where do we go?" he says. There's only the open sea or the exposed areas left for them. The sheltered areas are already saturated.

"And that was how the idea began to take shape. We thought that maybe, there is a kind of material that can be used for fish cages that is flexible enough to withstand the destructive forces of the sea," he says.

At that time, the most popular fish cage was the bleeder-glass type, which uses a circular frame made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) or steel pipes. Around this frame, which is held by floaters and anchors, is net cage 7 to 20 meters deep is hung and stocks are released and raised inside it.

"We just simply changed the frame of the cage, from PVC or steel pipes, to rope, and hung the same net cage," he says. "We have thought of the rope because we believed it was flexible enough."

He was right. When Typhoon "Juan" ripped through Pangasinan last year and Typhoon "Bessing," "Nina," "Pedring" and Quiel battered Pangasinan and La Union this year, the rope-framed fish cages never broke.

In contrast, Domondon says, a fish cage operator in neighboring Sto. Tomas town in La Union, using the "kerongpong" type steel frames, had all his cages crushed by the typhoons, losing the stocks in the sea. "This proves that the design, especially in the size of this type, is very up-

WORKERS stock large hoops to the rope frame of a fish cage. ISABEL ESPIRITU

propriate for semi-exposed or exposed areas," he says.

Aside from its durability, Domondon says, it's a lot cheap, or to build the rope-framed cage because it is simpler. What makes the Norwegian-type frame expensive, he says, is its use of steel or PVC pipes. A rope-framed cage costs half its price.

From their experience with Tiger, Domondon says the rope-framed fish cage has been refined to near-perfection. "We now have better design, better materials and it's easier to put together and to fabricate it," he says.

In fact, he says, many industry players have asked him for the details on the design. Fish cage operators in Eastern Visayas have adopted the technology, he says.

Sobrejuanite says at least two big fish cage operators have ordered rope-framed cages from his company. Tiger has applied for patents of the technology and is awaiting approval.

"On our part, it's just easy for the private sector to adopt this. They just have to see to it that economics is long as they will recognize the source of the technology. We're [a] government [office] anyway," Domondon says.

There's one thing though that he wants to see in the future. Deep-sea mariculture farming using the rope-framed fish cage technology.

"I know it won't be easy and it will be a lot challenging [for industry players], but it's very promising," he says.

In Angeles, 177 years of devotion to Dead Christ

BOOK cover of "Apung Mamasukdol"

By Tonette Orejas
Angeles City

EVERYTHING about the book "Apung Mamasukdol" (The Santo Entierro of Angeles City) is about healing by a community whose devotion to the Dead Christ, on its 177th year, remains intense despite being marred by a flood that dragged until 2010.

For one, the book takes off from a well-decorated corpse. Jun Fernandez, author of "Pintados Testimonio," on Aug. 15 last year, lifted the lone image by former Archbishop Oscar Cruz 25 years ago.

Fernandez's act was the resumption of Mexico and other occasions in a chapel in Barangay Pandatan in Angeles, where a replica of the image is kept and displayed for veneration.

The lone was a result of past conflicts. Padre Macario Pena, who had the image made, gave it as gift to the Cofradia Church. It had caused over the inheritance of the image within the family of Pena's descendants in the 1870s.

In 1928, the heirs took the original image and its "nose" (amongst not of the "pinandong mangal" (Holy Rosary Church) on Holy Friday, transferring it to a house like structure on a property of Don Dionisio Street. A year later, Fr. Juan Mercado asserted that the Union Angelina, whose branches included Dumit, had no authority over lands intended for the Apung Mamasukdol.

By 1929, the Supreme Court, through a partition filed by the Archdiocese of Manila (which covered the Diocese of Dumaguete then), ordered the heirs to return the image and the carriage to the church.

In the 1930s chapel of the Apung Mamasukdol, two images enclosed and two processions were held. The original Dead Christ was taken out by one of the heirs in compliance with the court order.

In 1933, Manila Archbishop Miguel O'Doherty turned down the request of Dayrit to have Mayor ordered in the chapel for the latter was not a proponent of the church. Despite this, the faithful longed to the chapel, making the replica more famous than the original, around the place, a flea market sprouted every Friday, the day of Apung Mamasukdol.

Cruz issued the ban in 1981 when the Dona-Dumit clan ignored efforts by the Catholic Church to settle the issue about the administration of the chapel and devotional ceremonies performed there.

On the eve of the 177th year of the ban, descendants of the Dayrit family decided to the church out of the lot to on which the chapel stands, helping protect it from demolition for the right-of-way of the Northrail project. The parish's head-raising campaign enabled it to buy the lot at reasonable terms from banks. The chapel is proposed to become an archdiocesan shrine.

CONGESTION OF THE DEAD at the Bulacaglia Cemetery in Marikina.

Salary increase sought for embalmers, cremators

By Philip C. Tubeza

AS MILLIONS of Filipinos marked All Saints' Day yesterday, the Federation for Free Workers (FFW) called for improved health and occupational safety guidelines for embalmers, cremators and other workers whose job is to take care of the dead.

In a statement, the FFW said that the public may not realize it, but **even memorial park workers** tend to practice occupational safety and health, "as else they might also take the path of their clients too soon."

"While everybody is remembering their dead, hardly anyone cares about what happens to those who take care of our dead," said the FFW, the oldest labor federation in the Philippines.

Families of the dead usually wouldn't even remember, much less know the embalmers, granddiggers, cremators and sanitary workers, who give utmost personal and professional care in their departed loved ones, "it added.

Safety in workplace

"People do not realize the nature of the safety and health issues in our workplaces, said Christian Mojica, vice president of the FFW-affiliated union at the Divine Memorial Park.

Mojica has spent more than a decade manning "the chamber," the place where corpses are cremated.

He explained that cremation like him get exposed to more potential hazards, especially when the family of their clients decide to have their dead cremated with their clothes.

"Metallic coffins pose the greatest hazards since they emit chrome and lead once burned," said Mojica, adding that chrome and lead poisoning, health risks once inhaled or brought in contact with the skin.

The cremators from burning both the coffin and the corpse are confined to the chamber, but the cremator eventually has to open the chamber to take the ashes out.

Caring for the dead

To address the safety and health issues in memorial parks and other industries, the FFW organized a five-day national Basic Occupational Safety and Health (BOSH) Training course in Damon City a week before the long All Saints' Day weekend.

"We do not only care for those in cemeteries. It is an opportune time to highlight the plight of the workers who care for the dead," said Mojica, one of those who attended the training course.

The FFW worked with the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Center to train some 30 students from different industries.

Julius Caingles, assistant vice president of the FFW and the BOSH training coordinator, said they invited FFW member-workers as well as unions from the construction, manufacturing and service industries—both in the private and public sector, and safety and health practitioners.

"The idea is to foster a safe and healthy culture in the workplace and what better way to start and spread it than with the help of trade unions," Caingles said.

"If trade unions can integrate OSH concerns in their collective bargaining agreements we envision much healthier and safer workplaces," he added.

Protective equipment

From the BOSH Training, Mojica said he learned that they needed to wear personal protective equipment "like protective suits, soaked and heat resistant head gear, face masks and gloves when handling a corpse during cremation."

He said he realized that they already have "to put in place additional seals to the chamber's doors to prevent gas leaks."

Mojica added that he noticed that a lot of the embalmers he has met have not been educated and prepared to have tuberculosis. He said he plans to address these concerns when he gets back to work.

"The Philippines has yet to ratify ILO Convention 167 on the OSH Promotional Framework. The international treaty directs ILO member governments like the Philippines to establish national systems, enact national policies and craft national programs for OSH.

A total of 44,000 occupational accidents occurred in 6,000 unregistered establishments employing 10 or more workers in 2007, Caingles said.

Occupational injuries that resulted from workplace accidents reached 46,578 that year, with manufacturing accounting for several cases which of the most injuries, he added.

Public schools to reopen tomorrow

By Tara Quimondo

THE DEPARTMENT of Education (DepEd) yesterday announced that classes in all public kindergarten, elementary and high schools nationwide will resume on Thursday and not the day before as some schools had reportedly scheduled.

In an advisory the DepEd said that all public schools nationwide must follow the official school calendar which mandates that the midterm break ends on Nov. 2 and the second term of the school year (SY) commences on Nov. 3.

Private schools may make their own schedules as long as they comply with the required 180 days of learning, the DepEd said.

"Regular classes in all public elementary and secondary schools will resume on Nov. 3, Thursday, as stated in the official calendar of activities for the school year 2011-2012.

The calendar, duly signed by Education Secretary Armin Luistro, is stipulated in DepEd Order No. 28, series of 2011, released last March 22, 2011," the department said.

It is compulsory for all public elementary and secondary schools to follow the official calendar. Private schools may opt to deviate from the schedule. However, they are required to comply with the 180 teaching-learning days," it added.

Dole: 41 countries off limits to OFWs

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE GOVERNMENT has classified 41 countries that do not have mutually safe and legal guarantees for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), prompting Manila to put them on a blacklist, according to Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz.

Baldoz said in a statement yesterday that the governing board of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) had approved a resolution identifying the 41 countries where OFWs could not be deployed because the states did not comply with labor requirements under the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act.

The POEA board also issued another resolution naming 49 countries where OFWs can be deployed. This is in addition to the 76 countries it has earlier identified as safe for Filipino workers.

"The governing board has thoroughly discussed and considered the Department of Foreign Affairs' recommendations and, in accordance with the law, issued the resolutions," Baldoz said.

Baldoz said that countries declared noncompliant could initiate negotiations and conclude bilateral agreements to comply with the Migrant Workers Act's requirements.

She also pointed out that 10 Filipinos could still work for companies and contractors with international operations in noncompliant countries, "unless there is an existing ban in that country."

POEA administrator Carlos Cao Jr. said his office would officially release the list of countries where OFWs could not go when government officers exposed today after the long All Saints' Day break.

"There were 41 countries that were declared noncompliant but there are small countries and not major (labor) markets (for OFWs)," Cao said.

He said that those were also removed 30 countries that were categorized under "quarterly confirmation."

"This means that we can deploy OFWs to some of their job markets but not to others, like those for household service workers," Cao said.

The POEA will publish the resolutions in two newspapers of general circulation. They will take effect 15 days after the publication.

Comelec wants amendments to election code

By Jessica Arifay

THE COMMISSION on Elections is planning to seek amendments to the 26-year-old Omnibus Election Code in arming it with election-automation laws, the latest of which was first implemented nationwide last year.

Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. said recently that most of the provisions of the OEC had become obsolete after the country adopted the first election automation law, Republic Act No. 8436, which provided for the joint venting of a computerized voting system for the 1998 polls in the 80 autonomous Regional Municipalities.

"The voting scheme nowadays is really different. The provisions under the OEC no longer apply. Many provisions governed by the provisions is no longer 'inquire,'" he said.

Asked how much of the OEC was no longer applicable or could no longer be enforced, he replied, "At least half."

The Comelec chief said this was the reason the commission would be undertaking an extensive study on how to amend the OEC, officially known as Batas Pambansa 881.

The law was passed in December 1985 during the Marcos regime, when the country still had a semi-presidential, semi-parliamentary system of government.

"We are now in the process of preparing a revised OEC. It will be[ ] more comprehensive and more up to date to cope up the automated system is concerned," Brillantes said.

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OPINION

Send us your feedback: inquirer.opinion@inquirer.com.ph

Ultimate objective

EDITORIAL

WILL IT, indeed, a victory for President Aquino's "all-out justice" campaign in Mindanao? That's how the Armed Forces of the Philippines is characterizing the fall of a rebel stronghold in Zamboanga Sibugay province a few days ago. Described as a former camp of a dissolved faction of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the site is said to have very thick vegetation riddled with land mines, and is twice the size of Camp Aguinaldo. It was overrun by government troops following the Aquino administration's announced rejection of "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (which had caused the death of 19 Special Forces soldiers in Al-Barka, Basilan on Oct. 18), endorsing instead what it calls a campaign of "all-out justice" against "lawless elements" in the troubled southern region.

Of some 100 rebels in the camp, 27 reportedly died in the ground skirmishes and air strikes the AFP launched. For the military, the "all-out justice" campaign has notched its first big achievement.

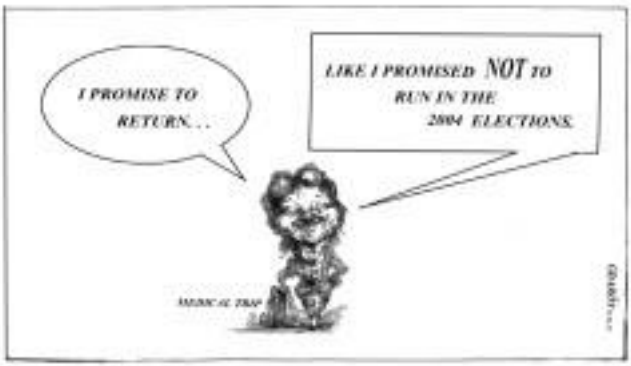
"Yes, (this is a victory) for us," declared Col. Arnaldo Marcelo Burgos Jr., head of the AFP's public affairs office. "It's major because this is a big loss to them. Even if we are to say that they are not completely decimated, they have broken up. The most important thing here is we liberated the place. We have established a hold in that former stronghold of lawless elements."

But, we are compelled to ask, who are these "lawless elements," really? When President Aquino announced that the government, in pursuit of "all-out justice," was launching an offensive against "lawless elements," it provided no clarification as to who specifically these elements were, and what constituted their lawlessness. The Basilan group Abu Sayyaf is obviously beyond the pale of law, and so it is a legitimate target. Dito with the still-at-large Nur Misuari Imam Kato, head of the breakaway MILF faction Bangsamoro Islamic Liberation Fighters. How about the MILF which has been denounced by many quarters for its supposed treachery in violating an ongoing ceasefire with the government? Malacañang was mum on whether the rebel group also fell under the rubric. How, then, must "lawless elements" be identified and eliminated, given that these armed Muslim groups tend to melt and morph into each other in the jungle-realist jungles of Mindanao? Secretary Ricky Carandang was the epitome of insight in his answer: "We still don't know what's going to happen down the road."

That uncleverness, deliberate or otherwise, is most unfortunate, because it dilutes the force and precision of the AFP's campaign, and could conceivably put more lives at risk both in the battlefield and in the civilian populations affected by the fighting. The unmistakable byproducts of the assault that led to the fall of the rebel camp in Zamboanga Sibugay has been the displacement of some 30,000 residents of the area. And yet, at the end of it all, and despite Burgos' assurance that "[b]efore we conduct an operations, it should be thorough, carefully planned; it should be a deliberate, intelligence-driven and focused operation; we have to be precise regarding our target," the AFP was nowhere near certain whether one of the ostensible targets of its offensive, the alleged kidnapping and extortion leader Wasing Abdulasalam, had survived the onslaught. "He's probably dead," was all Burgos could manage, adding helpfully: "It's likely he's not just wounded, but dead... because of the bloodbaths everywhere, an indication of the intense fighting."

At this point, perhaps declaring "victory" no matter how early and indistinct, in the military's way of saluting its wounds following the painful hiking it got at the hands of the MILF Army incremental success in the battlefield can restore hope, boost morale and soothe slighted pride among the troops. Still, the pronouncement seems rather premature. No sudness have been captured yet, there are tens of thousands of new evacuees to be tended to, the question of the MILF's breach of the ceasefire agreement is now stitched by a focus on an amorphous species of "lawless elements" (the assault in Zamboanga Sibugay was far from the MILF lair in Al-Barka, Basilan where government troops had their bloodiest setback) and, with the outbreak in fresh violence, prospects for peace in Mindanao are the most tenuous they've been in years. However way you look at it, that doesn't sound like victory—yet.

Where so if we bring to mind that one real, ultimate goal in Mindanao is lasting peace.



Drowning incident in Palawan

LAST SEPTEMBER, I wrote about a drowning incident at a resort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. A group of vacationers staying at the resort went swimming but was carried away by a strong undertow. One of them, a student, Ida Cecilia de Guzman, drowned. She is a member of a family of doctors. On the way to the hospital Ida's parents, among them of her doctor aunt, always tried to revive her, but she was declared dead in the hospital.

The family sued the resort for negligence—not having a lifeguard on duty, not having life-saving equipment in the cabin, hence, and not having warning signs about the undertow in the water.

Recently, I received a letter from the owners of the resort, Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa, explaining their side and disowning responsibility.

In the interest of fair play, I am quoting portions of that letter here:

"On Dec. 25, 2003, after breakfast, Ms. de Guzman and her family decided to go for a swim on the beach which is about 30 meters away from the resort's restaurant. They were informed by our lifeguard and by a roving guard that the current was strong that day. However, they proceeded towards the beach saying that they would stay close to the shore. There were also signs posted by the local government that (were) impossible to be missed or ignored, warning about the strong undertow, currents, and about swimming after six in the evening.

"In Sabang Beach, the waters closer to the shore are rougher than farther out. While Ms. de Guzman stayed ashore, her group floated in the surf. The current brought them out than they had intended to go. The problem with undertow and rip currents is that people not used to it panic and exhaust themselves, making drowning a very real possibility.

"When Ms. de Guzman heard the cries for help, she dove into the water despite not being a strong swimmer herself and tried to rescue her family members. Fighting against the current, she exhausted herself and nearly drowned, but was pulled on board by a local boatman and had first aid administered to her by the lifeguard on duty.

"As the boat neared the wharf, the resort's resident nurse noticed Ms. de Guzman's distress, her breathing and hair pulse. Fortunately then, she removed the vomit obstructing Ms. de Guzman's airway and continued to administer CPR. However, she was asked to step aside as members of Ms. de Guzman's family were doctors themselves. At the moment, the resort personnel had sent for an ambulance which arrived shortly thereafter.

"The resort is located 80 (kilometers) from the nearest hospital, and the journey takes about an hour and a half by land. Despite the efforts of the paramedics, Ms. de Guzman was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital.

"While all of us at the Sheridan deeply regret and mourn the death of Ms. de Guzman, we are simply at a loss on how to treat the deceased. Three months after the incident, at her sister, Dr. Corina Aurora Marcilliano, for us to pay P11 million to the family. To us, this is tantamount to admitting that the family had repeatedly expressed gratitude for all the support and help we had extended. Very clearly, we were not wanting in providing the necessary warnings and assistance.

"The accident was a most dire and unfortunate. But we are truly surprised by the course of action taken by Dr. Aurora Marcilliano (in putting) a price on her sister's life and makes no one to be indifferent to it.

"Jacqueline Tan

"Sheridan Beach Resort and Spa."

* * *

This unfortunate incident at the Sheridan Beach Resort has happened many times before in other places in the Philippines. And it will happen again. My own nephew drowned at a beach resort in Bataan while swimming only a few metres from the shore. He was carried away by a strong undertow. Like Ms De Guzman, he was pulled into a feature by boatmen but doctors at a hospital were unable to revive him.

There are many beaches in the Philippines with strong undercurrents and the government, national and local, are derelict in warning people about them. Go anywhere in the Philippines and you will find many inviting beaches with white sand, calm surf, swaying palms, blue sky and soft breezes. But under this inviting exterior may be lurking treacherous currents that can pull the unwary swimmer out to sea. Beaches facing the open sea are especially treacherous when the tide is going out. The tide is making entry from shore although you cannot see it. This tide can pull you out to sea before you realize it. My advice is not to go swimming in the sea, even if only a few metres from shore, when the tide is going out.

Meanwhile, the Department of Tourism and local government units, and especially the owners of beach resorts, should take special pains to see to it that swimmers are warned about the dangers. They should have lifeguards and boatmen on standby at all times. When the undertow is strong, beaches should be closed.

We can't expect beach resort owners to do this faithfully at all times because it costs money, as the DOT and the LGUs should too to if that the rules are followed.

We can avoid many tragedies and save many lives, as well as many families from grief, by being more vigilant, more careful and more caring.

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Horror story

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

SHOULD GOVERNMENT allow Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to leave the country and seek medical treatment abroad?

It's complicated business, but offhand I'd say yes.

No one, more than me, would like to see the First Couple jailed but I myself would not mind seeing government allow Gloria to bail. If not Mike, to get treatment for her condition abroad. Notwithstanding the real risk that she might not come back at all. She says of course that she will, as does her family, but she also said she would not vie for presidency and she did. It's even odds, as the very least, either way. That's the price you pay for crying wolf much too often.

I don't know how Gloria is today, though I have clue it is in quite a bad shape, her open letter for spinal implants having gone very very south, going her new insights into Job's lot. Which the turnaround will attribute to karma, on the part of both wife and husband. To have accumulated all that wealth and be unable to enjoy it? But maybe the accumulation was the real trip for them.

No matter. Government does have every right to disbelieve and demand proof that she has truly reached that point before giving her the authority to travel. Again that is the price you pay for crying wolf too often. Quite apart from that, there's the question of why you need to go abroad for it. The First Couple's favorite hospital, St. Luke's, is not exactly a pariah in the medical field. In fact, it's at the top of its game. It only for the almost miraculous way it revived Mike after his heart attack while in Baguio four years ago and after being flown to by a helicopter to St. Luke's grounds.

But no matter too. The upside of intransigence is that it shows the P-Noy administration to be totally committed to pursuing its campaign against corruption. In the past, critics have pointed out its submissiveness would be dumb or running only after the small fry. I was one of those that did. Well, you can't get bigger fish than the former First Couple, the corruption in their case taking on the Marcosian form not just of epic pillage but also of epic illegitimacy. So finally here comes to them and in person down subsidiarily, that is admirable. But so is its utmost circumstances. Those are not ordinary circumstances, or extra ordinary circumstances.

The upside will be more than upended by the downside. If Gloria's condition gets worse or, heaven forbid, if something worse happens to her while she remains here, government will be blamed for it. And that is proving it mildly. The evidence of her camp will go off the charts. See all you haters, her decline at St. Luke's might truly have given up on her maniacal and (spoil her) to such holy shroud—if only to safeguard their reputation as healers of the first order. A thing that will come into a question if something should happen to her under their watch. Why should government want to toil the same thing?

It is a win-win situation, that. P-Noy can, and will, be depicted by his enemies as practicing double standards. You can almost hear the hysterical accusations in Akbayan lambasting him for being weak-kneed before the fallen of the soldiers in Al-Barka, refusing as he has to vindicate the award of war upon them, and being tear-willed toward a former president who is sick, and a woman at that, and a small woman at that. All the realms will be playing enough to make the cruiser weep.

Sensitivity to Filipino culture is in order. Or it is what the doctor ordered. It is the further thing in keeping against enemies, however right or wrong. This is a culture that is not always able to distinguish between justice and revenge, prosecution and persecution, doggedness and relentlessness, a thing every tyrant, or plain wrongdoer, in this country has tried to work to his advantage. Inexorably or unconscionably depending on whether they have been outed by a tragedy or not. Having been visited by tragedy is a natural appeal to the rubrics of mercy, as evinced Angelo Reyes, who shot himself in the heart, and Miguel Zubiri, who resigned as senator after serving illegitimately for four years, who both nearly turned from hero to zero-night.

The thing is, government doesn't have to compromise its principles by allowing Gloria to leave. It can still institute legal proceedings against her even in her absence. It can still question the legitimacy of the last six years of her rule, and reading it when she is found to have stolen the vote, as "Hello Garci" more or less made it out to have done. About time we recognized the real winner of the 2004 elections, who is probably FPJ, as a matter of restitution, as a matter of making amends.

Government can still hound her for plunder once and beyond the cliff of senility. Who knows? Maybe her lawyers, or their, might embolden Sonny Trivi to name as his father to moderate the First Couple's appeal.

If she refuses to return as she has promised, she can always be cancelled, assuming she has gone to a country that has an extradition treaty with us, and assuming her health prevents it. Leaving that, government can always raise against her estate in cases where she is found guilty of the charges, again assuming that the places she has carved off her ill-gotten wealth to, allow extradition or at least the freezing of assets. Refusing to return, in any case, is flight, and flight is the clearest admission of guilt.

It may not be as satisfying as seeing the First Couple jailed, spirit or shaking a cell, the latter being the infinitely nearer punishment. But it's as best as you can get under the circumstances. It serves the ends of justice while showing government is not so morally impotent to the case is placed, one capable of showing compassion where compassion is due.

Some horror stories can have a happy ending.

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Better get used to high-priced food

COMMENTARY

Iwan J. Azis

LIQUIDITY-INDUCED FLOODING and crop losses in Thailand, the world's leading rice exporter, are raising concerns that another food crisis may be in the offing. Further deepening in the possibility that the world may have already entered a new era where persistently high food prices are the "New Normal."

At a time when policymakers are grappling with a host of thorny economic issues, the possibility may be unwelcome, but must not be ignored.

Although volatility in commodity markets is nothing new, there are worrying signs that food price fluctuations have suddenly become sudden, much higher bandwidth than ever before. Even when prices dip they remain high by historical standards, and when prices rise it's enough to put a serious dent in family budgets.

For Asia's poor, who already spend 60 percent of their household budget on food, even the smallest fluctuation in food prices forces unpalatable choices on where best to devote their scant resources. Many manage to feed means less for education and health, paving the way for poverty traps. Others, in desperation, take imprudent coping actions. It also means that those striving to escape poverty are less likely to do so, while millions more risk falling below the $1.25-a-day poverty line.

The Asian Development Bank estimates that a 10 percent rise in domestic food prices in developing Asia threatens to push an additional 64 million people into poverty. With food price inflation in many emerging Asian economies averaging 11 percent in the first half of 2011 alone, the growing number of families facing the scourge of dire poverty is staggering.

Much of the sharp increase in the region's food prices is due to production shortfalls caused by extreme weather events—such as droughts and floods—and inadequate irrigation, but also to biased production incentives. Growing appetites for grains, oil, seeds, sugar and livestock in emerging economies like the People's Republic of China and India are exerting further upward pressure on supply.

There has also been a growing trend over the past decade to "financialize" commodities, treating food items as important tradable asset class, just like stocks, bonds, currencies or real estate. As a result, movement in one major asset—say, real estate prices in the United States—can drive food prices in other parts of the world in ways that almost defy what real supply and demand might dictate. The various super-easy monetary policy in industrial countries may have also driven the financialization of commodities.

And then, of course, there's the weakness of the US dollar, to which most food commodities are denominated, as well as high oil prices, which raises costs at almost every step of the food supply chain, from fertilizer and animal feed, to fuel for bringing food from the farm to the kitchen table.

With a "New Normal" of persistently high food prices likely, policymakers have to stay, what are policymakers to do?

There are no easy solutions, but when faced with bouts of soaring food prices, governments need to be pragmatic and flexible.

Tightening monetary policy—like raising interest rates—as a standard tool to combat inflation and cool economic overheating. It is, however, clearly ineffective (and if the inflationary pressure is supply-side, and relatively blunt if price movements are volatile. Rate hikes take months to show results, and if one shares the view that the economic bumb until it defies growth, especially for small and medium businesses.

Inflation targeting is one of questionable value if the public does not view the measures to curb it. Consumers need to know what to expect. With food price inflation on the rise, social programs that target the most vulnerable members of society from the effects of higher commodity prices can be used where budgets allow. This is necessary to keep the economy from overheating (a subsidy, compared to tightening monetary policy).

There are other levers policymakers can pull, including a broad range of supply-side policies that can reduce bottlenecks in commodity-based industries, improving access to global markets and boosting productivity. The further elimination of trade barriers between countries—to counter local food shortages through imports from surplus producers—should be pursued through regional cooperation and other forums.

Global markets where commodities based financial derivatives are traded and priced should be regulated and closely supervised to avoid excessive volatility or the formation of price bubbles. They can also be used effectively as a hedging tool to manage risk.

In large countries, overall food supply may not be a problem, yet there could still be serious problems in some sub-national regions. In such instances, improved distribution channels to ensure that food reaches those in need are the key to remedy and isolated areas can play a critical role.

Taken together, it is clear that a globalized approach is needed to effectively address food price inflation. Countries normally address their own needs as they see fit, but in the demands of rapid economic growth and development increasingly cross borders. While acting nationally, policymakers will need to think globally and coordinate regional. Only then can we be assured that enough resources will be available to keep growing appetites satisfied at reasonable cost.

Iwan J. Azis is head of the Asian Development Bank's Office of Regional Economic Integration.

Steaks on a stone

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

It's a recent show, the thrill-a-minute steal to "fame" is a dance that the most effective way to transform a piece of meat into to shoot it out of a cannon. In the so-called Asian Premium Cut, the "cut" is put meat through all sorts of tests, including swapping a slab of meat in Evelas and shooting it through a super high-velocity cannon filled with explosives.

But, to their surprise, they found that meat that had literally gone through a test of arms was indeed more tender than pieces that had been conventionally prepared. I'm not sure about the flavor, though. I don't think meat that has been rattled with the Envoy and aroma of gun powder would be very appetizing.

Anyway, the show reminded me of a dinner I had recently that featured not just tender rib-eye steaks, but a unique way of serving it, which enhanced both the flavors and the aromas.

At the dinner of Wagyu Beef Grill in Greenhills (look for it on the parking lot across Starmall), all steaks are served on a heated slab of lava stone that's been sitting for six hours in an oven. Our Wagyu Ribeye Grade 9 steaks came sizzling on the stone, while our servers informed us that the stone would keep the meat "cooking" even as we indulge the steak. (Not not into too many pieces because the heat will dissipate so fast," we were informed.) whenever we wanted. To prevent the meat from burning to a crisp on the hot stone, we were instructed to dip each piece in the sizzling stone was to eat, and we could cook the down on the stone still further if we wished.

In an earlier era, we were advised that the steaks were simply flavored with salt and pepper, and that was enough seasoning. They did not recommend that we mess up the flavor with steak sauce or other condiments. Still, a media colleague couldn't help but ask for Tabasco, nothing the extra edge of hot sauce.

ELIJAH I have until Nov. 15 to enjoy a 40-percent discount on the Wagyu Ribeye Grade 9 steaks (but only in the Greenhills branch) as the restaurant's may celebrating its first anniversary and thanking its loyal customers.

On the evening we visited, which was a week day, the large sumptuous interiors were nearly full, testimony to the popularity of steak as a fine dining choice among Filipinos, and perhaps the enduring allure of a huge disposable. Pudgy in the throes of fiscal crisis, we look forward to similar promotions on the first anniversaries of the Wagyu Stone Grill's other branches in The Podium and Eastwood malls. A fourth branch in Manila will also open soon.

Every visit to the Wagyu Stone Grill begins with a walk past the large, unofficial freezer against one wall, the better to appreciate the various steaks available, the more popular being the ribeye (of various "grades," with Grade 9 the highest rating), the New York strip and the Tenderloin, so large it's good enough for a party of three.

Because in essence every diner is his/her own chef, clients aren't asked how they want the steaks cooked. "Gusto nyo" is determined by how long one keeps the steak on the stone. Same with steak sauces: with a side of vegetables and creamy mashed potatoes, and even diner wears a brown bib to protect from grease stains and unwanted aroma.

"WAGYU," said our solicitous waiter, is the Japanese term for "kobe beef," world-famous for the meat's lean way cattle in this part of Japan are fed, cared for and slaughtered. But the Wagyu Stone Grill steaks, we found out, come from Australia—from cattle bred in regions not unlike Japan's.

Wagyu beef is acclaimed worldwide for its "marbling," noted for its natural flavor and delicate texture. Kobe cattle are bred from the Japan wild breed and raised according to guidelines set out a thousand years ago in the imperial cities of Kyoto Prefecture. Beef isolation and discoveries feeding techniques (including the use of beer, I've been told, and barley in cider or rice wine), which enhance the art of business to thousands, ensure the distinctive marbling in beef. Wagyu is sometimes referred to as "white steak," with its very high rate of marbling but with lower saturated fat.

And the steak experience was not enough, our dinner was capped with flavorful desserts (cheesecake, decadent chocolate cake and ice cream) set on the same stone slabs, which had been cooling not-so-cool but in a freezer.

We went home satisfied not just with the flavor and richness of our meal, but with the entire experience, including the careful attentions of the wait staff, the comforting interiors and the quiet murmurs of satisfied diners.

CORRECTION: In a previous column, I wrote that the check for P5 million given to the Bangsamoro Leadership and Management Institute (BLMI) was handed by President Aquino to MILF Chairman Murad Ebrahim during their talks in Japan.

It is known that it was given by then Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the governmental panel in the peace talks with the MILF, to Mohagher Iqbal, chair of the MILF panel. This was done during the Aug. 22-23 formal exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, which Leonen announced in the press conference.

Ensuring during negotiations at the 30th formal Exploratory Talks in 2006, the institute was finalized and formally agreed upon during the 35th Exploratory Talks in 2007, with funding recommendations from the Philippine government to jumpstart the institute's operations.

After registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the BLMI was able to receive assistance from donor institutions such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which gave the initiative funds for the construction of a building. In 2008, the Asia Foundation provided support for a series of workshops to draw up the visions and organizational framework of the BLMI.

The end of population growth

WORLD VIEW

Sanjeev Sanyal

NEW DELHI—According to the United Nations' Population Division, the world's human population hit 7 billion on Oct. 31. As always happens whenever we approach such a milestone, this one has produced a spike in conferences, seminars and learned articles, including the usual dire Malthusian predictions about how the UN estimates that the world population will rise to 8.1 billion in 2030 and surpass 10 billion by the end of this century.

Such forecasts, however, misrepresent underlying demographic dynamics. The world is in fact on the cusp of a remarkable growth, but for 10%.

Many countries combined their national population counts last year, and the data suggest that fertility rates are plunging in most of them. Birth rates have been low in developed countries for some time, but now they are falling rapidly in the majority of developing countries. Chinese, Brazilians and Brazilians are no longer replacing their wives, while Indians are having far fewer children. Indeed, global fertility will fall to the replacement rate in a little more than a decade. Population rates may keep growing until mid-century, owing to rising longevity but, reproductively speaking, our species should no longer be expanding.

What demographers call the "total fertility rate" is the average number of live births per woman over her lifetime. At the long run, a population is said to be stable if the TFR is at the replacement rate, which is a little above 2.2 for the world as a whole, and somewhat lower, at 2.1, for developed countries, reflecting their lower infant mortality rates.

The TFR for most developed countries now stands well below replacement levels. The OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) average is at around 1.74, but some countries are much lower. Japan, for instance, produces less than 1.4 children per woman. However, the biggest TFR declines in recent years have been in developing countries. The TFR in China and India was 6.1 and 5.8, respectively, in 1950. It now stands at 1.8 in China, owing to the authorities' aggressive one-child policy, while rapid urbanization and changing social attitudes have brought down India's TFR to 2.6.

An additional factor could depress future birth rates in China and India. The Chinese census suggests that there are 118.6 boys being born for every 100 girls. Similarly, India has a gender ratio at birth of around 110 boys for every 100 girls, with large regional variations. Compare this to the natural ratio of 105 boys per 100 girls. The distortion is caused by artificial to a cultural preference for boys, which will take an additional toll on birth populations, as the future scarcity of women means that both countries' effective reproductive capacity is below what is suggested by the unadjusted TFR.

Indeed, after adjusting for the gender imbalance, China's effective fertility rate (TFR) is around 1.5, and India's is 2.45. In other words, the Chinese are very far from replacing themselves, and the Indians are only slightly above the replacement rate. The IFR stands at around 2.4 for the world as a whole, barely above the replacement rate. Chinese fertility suggest that the Chinese population will begin to decline in the next decade, but India's population will continue to grow for another 30 years.

These data have important implications for global labor supply. China is aging very rapidly and its working-age population will begin to shrink within a few years. Relaxing the one-child policy might have some positive impact in the very long run, but China is already past the tipping point, pushed there by the combined effect of gender imbalance and a very skewed age structure.

The number of women of child-bearing age (15–49 years) in China will drop 6 percent between 2010 and 2020, another 10 percent in the 2020s and, if we continue with our current family patterns, China will have to withdraw an increasing proportion of its female workforce and deploy it for reproduction and childcare. Even if China can engineer this, it implies an immediate collapse in the workforce, with the benefits lasting for 25 years.

Meanwhile, the labor force has peaked or is close to peaking in most major economies. Germany, Japan and Russia already have declining workforces. The United States is one of a handful of advanced countries with a growing workforce, owing to its relative openness to immigration. But the key change in the source countries becomes richer and undergo rapid declines in birth rates. Thus, many developed countries will have to rethink how to keep people working productively well into their seventies.

India, the only large economy whose workforce will grow in sufficient scale over the next three decades, may partly balance the declines expected in other major economies. But with birth rates declining there, too, current trends suggest that the population will probably stabilize at 1.53 billion in the early 2050s, a full decade ahead of—and 370 million people below—the UN's forecast.

Given this, it is likely that world population will peak much earlier than the 2050s, a 21st-century event that generally anticipated, followed a sharp decline. One could argue that this is a good thing, in view of the planet's limited carrying capacity. But, when demographic dynamics turn, the world will have to confront a different set of problems.

Project Syndicate

Sanjeev Sanyal is Deutsche Bank's Global Strategist.

Births, deaths

SOMEDAY you are probably feeling you've overdosed on articles that either pertain to the 7 billionth baby or to the dead, ghosts and cemeteries.

But let me give a new twist to the stories on births and deaths and introduce you, painlessly, to two social sciences: archaeology and demography.

Let's start with a quick quiz. "Pinoy?" I can hear some of you muttering in protest.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

but I have just one easy question: What's the oldest known burial place in the Philippines? Not to perfectly thinking of old churches now—which is a good start—or Pure Pinoy, but old as they are, with great historical value, these places only date back to the Spanish colonial period.

Archaeological sites are usually even dirtier, many of them most informative sites being graves and cemeteries, where the dead are often interred with all kinds of goods which tell us about how they lived. Of course after being dug up, the goods are called artifacts and some of these make their way, illegally, into antique shops.

Back to the oldest burial place. That was a trick question. The oldest known human remains in the Philippines are those found in Tabon Cave (actually a series of caves) in Palawan. All introductory courses for anthropology, archaeology and history will mention the "Tabon Man," referring to a skull cap, one of the many bones excavated from Tabon Cave by Robert Fox in the 1960s. Its estimated to be about 47,000 (plus or minus 11,000) years.

By human here I'm referring to *Homo sapiens*. Last year a team of archaeologists from the University of the Philippines, National Museum, Australian National University and French National Museum of Natural History made the headpage of Nature magazine with their discovery of another one hundred-plus specimens, dating to 67,000 years. The archaeologists cautiously described the way as "humanlike," meaning one of our relatives probably also belonging to the Homo genus, but not the same species as we are.

Cemeteries are far more than today, with large numbers of graves, and a modern development. From today in many parts of the world, the Philippines included, people might bury the dead in their backyard, or somewhere close to where they live. We do have laws now that prohibit such barbaric because of public health hazards.

The use of cemeteries became more widespread during the Spanish colonial period. People living in or near to the poblacion or town center would bury their dead in the churchyard or, in the case of the wealthier parishioners, within the church, their tombstones proclaiming the local who's who. These graveyards, together with written records like parish registers and death registers, have been a treasure chest for some child mortality, life expectancy, even epidemics and disasters (during which several corpses might be hastily buried together).

This is where the demographers come in. Demographers look at births and deaths, settlement sizes and migration. (Demographers were the ones who estimated where our population should be by the year 2000.) Historical demography is many days groupwatchers with dense calculations done there is no way we can actually do a global count.

'Extinct' and Macoy

I'll return to the global population shortly, but first I want to go back to our Catholic churchyards. A church burial was an important event in the year prior to good recording with the Catholic Church. The Spanish friars were said to have threatened Manila's residents with non-burial in La Loma, a Catholic cemetery, if they supported the Dagupan rev. Even today, the Catholic clergy can be quite stubborn about refusing church burials for people who committed suicide, or for Masons. In fact, the case of a high-ranking government official a few months ago.

Municipal cemeteries date to the American colonial period, and provided an alternative to the Catholic churchyards. The North Cemetery in Manila is the largest, with the gaps between the rich and the poor reflected in the huge mausoleums of the former and the "tenement houses" of the graves of the poor, stacked one on top of the other. It has a section for Masons, probably those who could not be buried in La Loma, which was a Catholic cemetery.

The Chinese also put up their own cemeteries since those who did not convert to Catholicism could not be buried in the churchyards. The Chinese Cemetery in Manila is right next to the North Cemetery. Today Chinese cemeteries are found in several major cities in the Philippines, but the one in Manila is still the most opulent; here, one can even find air-conditioned mausoleums (the air-con units hidden on only an old house fan).

Memorial parks came about only in the last 50 years or so, and allow the Filipinos to go full blast with chassis festivities for the dead. I'm actually glad that churches are attracting the dead (or their relatives) again with columbaria or outdoor niches. Several years ago my mother organized an outing from the Ormoc cemetery, cultivating our relatives and having them clean the graves. We had lunch in a church crypt with a many odorous, and tomb, ambience.

Those being threatened with excommunication for their support of reproductive health shouldn't worry since there are now secular columbaria as well, some in memorial parks (but have caught on to the new trend, offering their own crematoria facilities and columbaria).

One last story about cemeteries. The Santa Ana church was one of the earliest to be excavated by archaeologists, yielding many finds dating back to the pre-colonial period. Among the interesting finds were the remains of a dog, apparently a pet buried with affection. This inspired Isabel Escudero to write a children's book about it. Upon a killing." Published in 1962, the book is now out of print.

What's your number?

Let me leave the dead now and get back to the living and the births. As I mentioned earlier, there is no way to establish just how many people are here now on the planet. The 7 billion mark is an estimate, with many countries, including the Philippines, not having censuses for a while. Still, they help to highlight the need to think of our demographics, and how such facts challenges families, communities and nations with new responsibilities. Somewhat lost in the 7 billion headlines was the estimate that the Philippines now has a population of 94.8 million, the 12th largest in the world.

Just to put things in perspective at the global level, here's a one-per-cent rule where you can map your birthday and get a number, a kind of demographic ID which tells you how many or earthlings you had when you were born. I did that and found out that when I was born, only about 40 years ago, the world's population was about 3.5 billion. That means the world's population has increased by 200 percent since then.

Someone should put up a site to calculate a Philippine ID number. The Philippine population was about 22.3 million the year I was born, which means it's increased by 440 percent.

Check your global ID number here: populationconnection.org/articles/What_Your_Number%20is.aspx

Put a stop to treachery

LETTERS

PEACE is defined as a state of harmony characterized by the lack of violent conflict. Commonly understood as the absence of hostility, it suggests the existence of a tranquil or quiet relationship between or among individuals or groups. Obviously, peace is what we all want today.

But government is having its peace talks with rebel groups in our country, particularly the CPP-NPA-NDF (Communist Party of the Philippines, New People's Army, National Democratic Front) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The peace talks are aimed at resolving and ending the insurgencies that have plagued our country for decades. We, ordinary citizens in this country, are big parents and well-meaning lovers of the government in pursuing the peace negotiations, and we fully support the government in that.

But it is very apparent that the rebel groups are not committed to the pursuit of peace. They are time sirens, killings, ambuscades, kidnap for ransoms and all sinister schemes. Despite all this, the government has taken its overtime action to suppress their criminal activities. It is under such circumstance that we condemn in the strongest possible terms the treacherous attack of the MILF in Al-Barka, Basilan, which killed many of our government soldiers and injured scores more.

In the Al-Barka ambush staged by the MILF, 19 of our soldiers perished and many others were wounded. Still, President Aquino is determined to proceed with the peace talks with the MILF next month, even though it is obvious that the MILF is using the peace talks to rub the hands of government from responding to MILF forces' criminal activities.

President Aquino is treating the MILF like a spoiled brat. It's time to suspended unequivocally the peace talks and subdued the "honey no bokap" agitation the terrorists responsible for the treacherous attacks of our soldiers.

—ARNELIO T. CANACIL
anacilarnelio@yahoo.com

MILF has no intent to honor peace process

IT'S TIMES to blame military officers for the Al-Barka incident when they were just doing their job. Who is the administration paying very little attention to the bleeding future of the Philippines and yet giving too much credit to the machinations of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that, time and again, has consistently disrespected the peace process by attacking and massacring our soldiers. I say "murder"—because soldiers were already disarmed when the MILF who caught them decided to take their lives anyway. The agency administration should stop relieving officers and looking for scapegoats for this unfortunate. The culprit isn't in the AFP. The culprit is in the MILF that shows no intent to honor the agreements made at the peace talks and still insists to betray the peace negotiators including the slickness and facilitators), the government, the military and the Filipino people. I call on President Aquino to put an end to the demoralization in the ranks of the military. Let's not kick a wounded dog when it's down.

—JULIE SUNICO,
jsjsunico@yahoo.com

Church, gov't, Reds all claiming to own Pops should join his movement to advance peace

BOTH GOVERNMENT'S CATHOLIC Church and the New People's Army/National Democratic Front praise Fr. Fausto "Pop" Fonacier's service to the people. Both claim to own him and his actions to the people. They do converge and meet and support Father Pop's movements. This is a sign of a possible direction for the peace process. All who support Pop's movements can join in the ongoing movement "Growing the Seeds of Peace." Along road to peace... are one small ingredient in Pop's quest.

Saying the vigil and the funeral, many church and government leaders joined in prayer inside the Church. Many more people joined the march outside the church. Father Pops movement lives. If he could walk, he would have joined the crowd of demonstrators.

In Pop's native village Sorsogon allow anyone to disturb or steal Pop's popular inventions. Dedicate the words of the TODAS (Poor, Deprived, Oppressed, Marginalized, Exploited and Struggling People), instead join them in turning symbol of power.

—FR. PETER GOMEZ,
Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions
(PIME)

OWS INSPIRED rally in Seoul, one of the many protest actions held worldwide denouncing corporate greed.

'Product of despair and disgust' with system favoring greedy few

ALTHOUGH IT'S been celebrated as a movement that became almost a cliché, the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement (including its replications in other countries) is mostly anti-capitalist. It is focused against unbridled greed and the social injustice perpetuated by a system dominated by a minority portion of the population.

The movement has been clever in coining, but it has been a product of generations of despair and disgust with the system that favors only a few and oppresses the many. In a way, the movement has deeper social sources and deeper roots, parallel to the anti-war and anti-globalization movements. By not having a fixed single demand, it is not constrained by the programmatic limits of single-issue campaigning. The movement encompasses a broad range of issues that represents both unjust business agenda while it presented as an unjust capitalist system.

The movement is in fact revolutionary as it strikes at the deeper roots of the problem—the domination and monopoly of economic wealth and political power. It is a few corporate groups and political clans. The solutions to this crisis transcends the lame of socialization, which is being put forward as a democratization to—the democratization of economic wealth and political power to society.

The demands include: a stop to bank foreclosures of poor people's homes; housing for the homeless; full employment; genuine universal health care; affordable education; cuts in military spending; more social welfare projects and many others. Put together, the demands call for a complete overhaul of the capitalist system as it can provide for the needs of 99 percent of the population.

Call it the democratization of the economy and political power—but the demand is basically to do away with the enormous of wealth and privileges in the hands of a select few and its diffusion to the many. This alternative can only be socialism. In the words of Marx, the change in existence can not emerge by degrees, of all capital from the hands of the bourgeoisie. Capital here denotes not the personal but the economic, political and social power of the ruling class (as represented by 1 percent of the population).

That really there have been voices saying for the staging of the OWS movement wherever there are repressed and exploited working masses are and for the widening of the scope of occupation to include public buildings and spaces where the poor can build homes, empty factories, too, where they can produce some of their needs; and universities where economic much on and assemblies can be held.

Through the OWS movement, cashiers everywhere have now an opportunity to put forward alternatives to the unjust and enslaving capitalist system. The demands point to the need to put power in the hands of the 99 percent of the population (or to all under it) to the taking of this new democratic socialist society.

—HENRY BELLEZA,
chair, Partido Lakas ng Masa (PLM),
partidolakasngmasa@gmail.com

Robredo to South's execs: Enforce 'all-out justice'

By DJ Yap

NOW "ALL-OUT JUSTICE" is to be served by civilians, too.

Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo has ordered government, mayors and barangay chiefs, particularly in conflict areas in Mindanao, to carry out the government's "all-out justice" campaign against lawless elements hiding out in their communities.

Robredo, who was with Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman and President-elect Noynoy Aquino's adviser Teresita Deles, named the director Philip during visits in Basilan and Zamboanga Sibugay provinces to deliver President Aquino's message.

He reminded the officials of their sworn duty to lead the peace and order campaign, including going after lawless elements and fugitives, and urged them to provide help from the military and police in this effort.

"If local executives won't do anything against lawless elements and fugitives present in their areas, there would be no peace and development. If those problems persist in their locality, no amount of money and infrastructure projects would make them succeed," he added.

"If a concerned local chief executive does nothing against lawless elements or even harbors fugitives in their areas, they are liable under the law. We can file criminal and administrative cases against them such as harboring fugitives or dereliction of duty under the Local Government Code of 1991," he said.

Robredo also explained the government's policy of "all-out justice" instead of an "all-out war" espoused by some quarters against rogue Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) elements and Abu Sayyaf members in the region.

"It is the responsibility of the government to go after and work for the arrest of lawless elements and fugitives hiding or staying in MILF-controlled areas," he said.

But "it does not mean we are up against the MILF. The peace negotiations with them should push through. I hope that the public, particularly the Muslim-dominated areas in Mindanao, would understand that line," he added.

Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad yesterday appealed to both camps to pursue peace negotiations.

"Please just let wisdom prevail among us so we can focus how to propel's road to the situation we are in," Jumoad told reporters in a phone interview yesterday. "I support here every formula calm and just peace initiatives prevail and order in the province."

"Our government has already said it is committed to the peaceful talks [and] so we hope we can have sincere, honest and committed peace talks initiated," said the prelate. With a report from Jocelyn E. Uy

ROBREDO

Zamboanga Sibugay evacuees expected to start going home

By TJ Burgonio

AN GOVERNMENT troops moved deeper in Zamboanga Sibugay province in pursuit of fugitive Moro Islamic chieftain, some of the more than 20,000 residents could start to go back home beginning this week, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said yesterday.

By Sunday the number of evacuees in Payao, Alicia, Tubiran, Mabuhay and Ilikian-ga towns had risen to 4,335 families or 21,090 individuals as more people fled their homes after rogue elements entered their barangay, Soliman said.

"Based on the assessment of the military and the province, many of them can start going back to their places in certain areas this week because the military's last pursuit operations against the lawless elements has moved further away," she said in a phone interview.

"First if the military or police say it's safe to go back, they will have to check the situation. The lawless elements are harassing and targets is distinct the Army. The process will take about two weeks before they can settle down," she said.

Evacuees still in Al-Barka

In Al-Barka, Basilan, 1,891 families or 9,481 individuals remained in evacuation centers or in the homes of relatives following the Oct. 28 ambush that killed 15 soldiers.

"There is a fast pursuit operation, and the people are not being asked to go back as of now," she said.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has allotted P7 million and P5 million for its cash-for-work programs for the evacuees in Zamboanga Sibugay and Basilan, respectively, to help them recover, Soliman said.

Evacuees who will repair homes, school buildings, barangay centers or any government facility that had either been destroyed or damaged during the clashes would get paid.

"They'll start the work this week," said Soliman, who visited Sibugan on Friday together with Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Secretary Norman Bolos, presidential adviser on the peace process.

The DSWD will also release the cash grants to evacuees who are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program before they go back home.

"Social workers managing the evacuation centers continue to provide the evacuees counseling sessions and play therapy to children to reduce the trauma that they are undergoing," Soliman said.

Cooperate or stand aside, AFP tells MILF in Basilan

From page A1

Maj. Gen. Noel Coballes, chief of the 1st Infantry Division based in Patikul, Sulu province, announced yesterday the redeployment of the elite 104th Brigade from Lanao del Sur province to Basilan two weeks after the massacre of the soldiers.

Coballes said the brigade would join Special Operations Task Force Basilan that earlier had been reinforced with a 91-strong Special Forces company and about 300 Army personnel. An Army brigade normally has three battalions, each consisting of 500 men.

"My directive to Army troops in Basilan is not to seek revenge for the 19 Special Forces and other victims through erroneous pursuit and intelligence operations or locate and neutralize all lawless elements and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in Basilan," Lt. Gen. Alfredo Dirik, the top commander, said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Coordinate with MILF or ...

On Monday, MILF spokesperson Von Al-Haq said it is better to coordinate with the government and that the fighters had been ordered to take up defensive positions.

Al-Haq said that a military assault in Basilan, without coordination with the MILF, would be a violation of the ceasefire agreement between the MILF and the government.

"If that happens, it will surely affect the peace process and our future there will defend their positions with their blood," he said.

Al-Haq said that so far the MILF had not been informed of the operations to be conducted by the Armed Forces of the Philippines in Basilan under the campaign for "all-out justice" ordered by President Aquino on Oct. 24 for the massacred soldiers.

Drive not against MILF

Asked about the MILF statement, Malacañang's deputy spokesperson Abigail Valte said yesterday, "We have made it clear from the onset that this is not against the MILF as we really hit against lawless elements. So, there are two clusters. Either they cooperate or stand aside and let our law enforcers do their jobs."

On Oct. 18, troops sent to Al-Barka in Basilan's north section to arrest Dan Asnawi, blamed for the beheading of 10 Marines soldiers in 2007 in the same town, ran into stiff resistance from the MILF, resulting in the massacre of the 19 soldiers.

The MILF said that the soldiers strayed into its territory in violation of the ceasefire agreement. The rebels claim that an "area of temporary stay" for their fighters is allowed under the terms.

On Oct. 24, President Aquino ordered an air and ground assault supposedly against Muslim outlaws in Datu, Zamboanga Sibugay province, and last week dispatched Philippine Air Force planes to pound an ASG hideout in Indanan, Sulu island.

The battles on the two fronts reportedly left about a dozen soldiers and MILF fighters dead and sent more than 30,000 people into evacuation centers, but critics said the operations were nothing more than an "ocean view." The battle zones were also far removed from al-Barka in spite of the operation being billed as a drive for "all-out justice" for the 19 soldiers killed in Basilan.

SAY IT WITH MUSIC Marine woman play the kalimbang during a rally for peace in Mindanao.

Prior information

Earlier, Basilan officials called on the military to consult with them before mounting an operation, particularly in Al-Barka, Vice Gov. H. Rasheed Jakiladtul said. "We are asking them to give us enough time to move civilians out before they get inside to get the lawless elements."

Chief Supt. Nerwenido Laing, police chief for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said they were still exchanging the list of suspects to be captured.

On Oct. 18 intensive fire they can serve the warrant of arrest in the right premises.

"There is an agreement that through a joint operations out police will serve as sheriff with backup from the AFP but this was never observed," he said, referring to the slaughter last month.

"This military official who ordered the Special Forces to conduct police action failed to acknowledge the existing ceasefire mechanisms where they have to wait for the MILF to turn over the wanted persons," Laing said.

Conjoined Pinoy twins to be separated in California

From page A1

live independently from each other.

The girls were born in the Philippines and live in California with their family.

Pediatric surgeon Gary Hartman, who is performing the similar procedures, said he expected the twins to survive and do well. The operation will involve more than 20 physicians and nurses from various specialties, and it culminates several months of planning.

"I want them to live normally, like other children," Grundy believes, the girls' mother, said in a statement from the hospital.

The girls have done well so far. They love listening to music and books, and they know their colors and can count to 10. They celebrated their second birthdays with cakes adorned with Disney princesses and Tinker Bell.

But remaining conjoined carries risks for the girls' health, especially if they share organs unequally. If one conjoined twin dies, the other will die within hours.

Severing liver riskiest

The girls' livers, diaphragms, breast bones, chest and abdominal wall muscles are fused. They have separate hearts, lungs, kidneys, stomachs and intestines.

EITHER Angelica (right) and Angelina (left) Salonga sit on mattresses at the same time. Doctors will separate them at the chest and abdomen, said the California hospital where the operation will take place on Tuesday. The riskiest part of the surgery is separating the liver. AP

The occurrence of conjoined twins is estimated to range from 1 in 50,000 births to 1 in 100,000 births worldwide, and the overall survival rate is approximately 25 percent, according to the hospital.

The operation will involve untangling the girls' skin and muscle and separating their diaphragms and livers. Hartman said severing the liver will be the riskiest part of the procedure because of potential blood loss.

Doctors will then close any soft tissue between the girls' bodies and redo any remaining skin. Separate reconstruction operations will follow.

The girls are expected to be hospitalized for nearly two weeks.

Hartman said he doesn't expect the children will need to have physical therapy following surgery but they may experience regression with some rehearsing they've already hit. The girls can walk now despite their face-to-face orientation but may lose that ability for example, for a few weeks to months while they recover.

Separation anxiety

"My expectation they will have a little separation anxiety too," said Reby Gilmore Collins, the girls' aunt. "But we're just so proud of them and so excited for them in the future."

Grundy said she learned her babies were conjoined when she was seven months pregnant and her husband was working in San Jose, California.

The babies were born in August 2010, and she joined her husband, Peter, in California in late 2010 when they began meeting with doctors at Packard Children's Hospital.

Reports from AP and AFP

WHAT WENT BEFORE: THE AGUIRRE TWINS

BROTHERS Clarence (left) and Carl Aguirre sit upright unassisted and play in this photo taken on Dec. 8, 2004, after their 17-hour separation surgery.

(ABS-AFP) Clarence Aguirre sees little competition at the head-to-single-member section at the Philippine General Hospital on April 21, 2002. As craniopagus (head to head) twins, they shared bones in the skull and some portions of the brain surface.

A pediatrician referred the case to the Philippine Airforce Foundation, the local partner of the US-based nonprofit organization Children's Chance which helped fund two New York-based hospitals as specialists for an operation to separate the twins.

In September 2003, Arlene and her twins flew to their birthplace of operation by doctors from the Children's Hospital at Montefiore and Elizabeth Glaser's Hospital in Valhalla led by Dr. Alden Landrath.

Still in US

The procedure cost more than $1 million, but Montefiore and Elizabeth pledged to cover the expenses. The physicians involved also waived their fees.

In two years, Carl and Clarence underwent three major surgeries, as well as a series of physical, occupational, speech and feeding therapies.

The twins were finally separated on Aug. 4, 2004, after a 17-hour operation that generated headlines and captivated public attention around the world.

The twins continue to stay in the United States for medical monitoring and therapies.

They were separated in the preceding public school and receiving therapy sessions, and were still dependent on a trust fund created for their needs. Inquirer Research

Sources: Inquirer Archives and agapecenter.org

OWWA Announces 2011 MOFYA Regional Winners

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration proudly announced the 34 regional winners for the Land-based and Sea-based categories for the 2011 Model OFW Family of the Year Award (MOFYA). The 34 were selected based on the wholesomeness of family, civic and community involvement, success in managing finances and investments in successful entrepreneurial projects.

The awarding of the Regional Winners will be held on **06 December 2011** at the Heritage Hotel in Metro Manila. Cash prizes and other awards will be given to the 34 regional winners courtesy of Globe Telecom and BDO Remit.

Two (2) National Winners, one each from the land-based and sea-based categories, will be chosen from among the regional winners. In addition, two (2) special awards will be given for the OFW family with Outstanding Achievement in Community Projects and for Outstanding Achievement in Entrepreneurship.

The National Awards Ceremony is slated on **07 December 2011** at Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila in Pasay City. Major prizes await the national awardees. Top institutional partners who have supported the MOFYA are Bank of the Philippine Islands, Globe, BDO Remit, SM Supermalls, Landbank of the Philippines, and Development Bank of the Philippines.

The MOFYA is now on its 7th year.

Amit, Ouschan lead 10-Ball cast

AMIT hones the limelight over the past years, however would-be nemesis Rubilen Amit hopes to make an impression in the 2011 Valle World Women's 10-Ball Championship starting today at the Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

The 30-year-old Amit, who ruled the inaugural event in 2009, heads a host of challengers out to dethrone defending champion Jessica Ouschan of Australia.

Amit has been little active after seeing her run in last year's tournament end in the semifinals against Korean ace Un Young Kim.

The stamp-size Southeast Asian Games champion uses the world championship as an opportunity to cement her status as one of the finest players in the world.

"I will do my very best for the flag and country," said Amit.

Among the 48 players seeing action are Kim, Ju Sun Ha and Yeon Park of Korea, Allison and Kelly Fisher of England, Xiaoting Chen and Baoling Pi of China.

Ouschan is relishing the opportunity to defend her title in Manila, where her popularity runs after her two-time crown last year.

"Coming in as owner as the defending champion is never easy," the Australian said. "There is extra pressure but pressure is a privilege and that is how I see it." GerildT'Espos

AMIT

Alcala draws tough World Jrs foe

MALVOSIE Ann Alcala will take on joint SEA gold Sonia Ee Yi Chieh of Malaysia when she opens her World Juniors Championships campaign today in Taiwan.

The 16-year-old Alcala, coming off a sweep of the Under-19 and Open singles titles in the PHAPP-SP Muay Cup Badminton Championships, battles one of the leading junior players of talent-rich Malaysia at 4:55 p.m. in the upper half of the 128-player event which features the world's leading Under-19 players.

Amelle de Vera kicks off the Philippine team's bid in the week-long tournament. She takes on England's Emily Westwood in the lower bracket at 10:45 a.m.

De Vera, whose campaign along with the other Filipino hers are sponsored by the Philippine Badminton Association, later teams up with Kevin Goilarmat as they sing to see with Singapore's dazed Ishak and Siti Hajar Tan in the mixed doubles at 1:05 p.m.

Goilarmat also sees action in the boys' singles against Russian Anatolly Yartsev at 3:25 p.m.

Jigmei Tarsuna, the country's No. 1 junior player, drew an opening round bye and will face the winner of the Jason King Ong Lo and Talga Garay clash in the second round. Jeannine R. Pajo

The story of King Arthur

IN HUDDLE

Bimbo Cadiz

AT FIRST I thought it was just a dramatization ploy that usually comes before a Pacquiao fight.

Apparently, someone had spread the word that our fighting congressman, Manny Pacquiao, had actually aired a child who was ready to appear in his pedicklid and release hapless he personally arranged.

My colleague said the issue is three weeks old, but I first heard about it only yesterday in our early morning show.

It was initially a crisis update regarding an earlier report that Jinkee Pacquiao was seeking annulment of her marriage to the world's most popular and perhaps richest boxer-turned-lawmaker-turned-preacher.

Naturally, I felt compelled to verify if there was some truth to this report.

***

"Is it true or is it just another rumor to distract Manny from his training?" I asked a colleague who I thought might be able to provide me with answers.

"Where's the girl, and what happened happen to Lee Angeles?" I asked sounding completely clueless.

My colleague let out a big yawn. "Where have you been? That story is almost a month old. Apparently you don't read the tabloids."

My colleague said he didn't know exactly the boy's name started, "but maybe suspicious sexual when controversial parties learned of the name given the child."

"As you know, Manny has a penchant for giving his kids royal or monarchic names such as Princess, Queenie, Mahalo, Emmanuel, Jinkee's godchild who is suspected to be his biological child, was christened King Arthur.

***

In spite of the ensuing suspicions, the issue, according to my colleague, was already settled even before Manny left for Los Angeles.

Manny's close friend and business associate Lito Camo is said to have come to the rescue of his compadre, revealing by a stack of bibles that Manny was really "just a young."

"But Arthur believe him? Or better yet, do you believe him? Maybe you know the truth, maybe you know who the girl is," I told my earlier friend.

***

A comment's silence.

"Of course you and I know how extremely difficult it is to invite Manny to any event or affair, no matter how important, how let me answer your questions with another question."

"What would prompt Manny to attend the baptismal of a seemingly ordinary child unless there's a connection?"

My colleague gave me the name of the mother, who he said is 23 years old and's student of the culinary arts.

He said photos of the baby and the baptism rites are in the girl's Facebook account, so now I'd like to look them up.

Her initials, appropriately, are K.O., according to my colleague.

As to the report that Jinkee plans to file an annulment of their marriage, the noble said there is absolutely no truth to that.

"Jinkee has plans to run for public office. It won't be such a smart move to separate from her husband, even if the rumors happen to be true," my colleague said.

I can't help but be happy for the "23-4-King Arthur" who turned at PCE Roland Dec. 16 at Lahin Pala, 316 123 Theater of Young Arts Cruz and Bulang

CARLI de Murga: Mine Asbah.com

Azkals medal chances doable

PH hopes to surpass 4th-place finish in '91

By Mesang B. Castillo

JAKARTA—The Azkals—though not necessarily the same batch that swamped Football in the Philippines—may the first group of Filipinos who attended an Sunday in this traffic-infested Indonesian capital for the 26th Southeast Asian Games.

And though finding newfound fame back home because of a series of exciting international performances, this Under-23 squad hopes to break through in these Games. That is to win for the Philippines its first football medal.

The bronze Jamos and Phil Younghusband, fronted scorer Chieffy Caligdong and the indefatigable Aly Borromeo won't be on this squad. But the Philippines probably has its best shot at getting home with a medal.

"It's doable, definitely," team manager Dan Palami, the man chiefly responsible for that team piece, told the business moments after touching down after a nearly seven-hour trip from Manila to Singapore to here.

The Philippines' best football finish in the biennial meet came in 1991, when the country hosted the Games in Manila. It was a squad that set to make the semifinals only to lose and settle for fourth place.

And if one would talk about the luck of the draw, then the Philippines had seemingly gotten one, and hopes to ride it all the way towards finishing in the money.

Knocked with Myanmar, Timor Leste, Laos, Vietnam and Brunei, the Philippines is in what coaching staff calls the "Group of Hope" in the other favorites, counting the host Indonesians, Singapore, Thailand and defending champion Malaysia are in the other Cambodia is the fifth and last Group A members.

Only one group make up the elimination round with the top two teams to advance to the crossover Final Four after a single-round robin.

The Philippines beat Vietnam for its first match on Thursday.

Given that, the Filipinos, who will be followed by a number of FB-fanatic players, will play a total of five games and would need to top their group or draw the highest possible assignment in the semifinals.

"A lot of people think that it's going to be easy," said Palami. "We should realize that teams like Timor Leste, Cambodia and Laos have gradually built very good youth programs and the products of those programs are playing here."

The Azkals got a massive boost late Thursday when FB-German midfielder Stanley Ott opted to join the team at the last minute, after earlier ruling himself out as he finds for a new club in Europe.

The Under-23 Azkals have play Timor-Leste on Nov. 7 at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium before tangling with the Laotians on the 11th in the same pitch.

The rest of the 312 on-ring Philippine delegation rookie its way to here and make venue Jakarabang province for the opening days, hoping to put the country back in the top half of the overall medal finish.

Barbosa, Bitoon earn GM title

By Jaemine W. Pajo

THE BUSILLO Clare Bobrovsky (Dale) has confirmed the Grandmaster title in Oliver Barbosa (2571) and Richard Bitoon (2533), taking the total number of Filipino GMs to 16.

Barbosa, who hails from Tayong Bisal, earned his third and final GM norm in the 1970 Rizal Dr. Narcis Shah Invitational Masters last September in Kuala Lumpur where he bagged the overall title and the 4,000 USM (about P17,000) prize.

Bitoon obtained his final GM in the same event where he finished tied for second with IM Jahangir Vakhidov of Uzbekistan.

Barbosa and Bitoon joined the country's elite GM circle, including Eugene Torre, Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr., Rong Hilconada, Nelson Brantuan Jr., Mark Paragua, Wesley So, Darwin Layla, Jayson Gonzales, John Paul Gomez, Joseph Sanchez, Roland Salvador, Rogelio Barcelona Jr., Jr., Julio Catalino Sadorra and the late Rosendo Balinas Jr.

"Our target is to hit 20 Grandmasters next year so we can ask the World Chess Federation if we can have our own zonal championships in the Philippines," National Chess Federation of the Philippines head Prospero Pichay Jr. said.

IM BITOON

Swiss Indoors: Federer trounces Starace

BASEL, Switzerland—Roger Federer made a winning return from a six-week break, beating Pablo Andujar of Italy, 7-5, 6-4, in the first round of his hometown Swiss Indoors event on Monday.

The fourth-ranked Federer took time to find the rhythm in his ground strokes, and saved a break point at 3-all before winning the first-set tiebreaker comfortably.

The 30-year-old Swiss then broke the 34th-ranked Starace's serve in the opening game of the second.

Federer last played on Sept. 30 in a Davis Cup match on grass in Australia where he beat Bernard Tomic in four sets.

Federer is seeded third behind Novak Djokovic of Serbia and Andy Murray of Britain. AP

Fisher denies players union rift

NEW YORK—Derek Fisher denied a rift in union leadership was a blow to NBA players' bargaining efforts Tuesday, saying there were no "irreconcilable differences" between him and union executive director Billy Hunter.

Fisher, who is also president of the National Basketball Players Association, said he had no intention of stepping down from his union post.

"I'm not going to resign," Fisher said. "I'm not going to step down. I'm not going to do anything that's going to be a distraction to the process that we're in right now."

Fisher's comments came a day after Hunter said he had been told by Fisher that the union president was resigning. Fisher denied he had said that.

"I'm not sure how that got started," Fisher said. "I've been very clear with Billy and with the rest of the guys that I'm not resigning. I'm not stepping down. I'm not doing anything that's going to be a distraction to the process that we're in right now."

Fisher said he had a "very productive" meeting with Hunter on Monday and that they had discussed the issue.

"We're not going to allow anything to be a distraction to the process that we're in right now," Fisher said. "We're not going to allow anything to be a distraction to the process that we're in right now."

Fisher said he had a "very productive" meeting with Hunter on Monday and that they had discussed the issue.

"We're not going to allow anything to be a distraction to the process that we're in right now," Fisher said. "We're not going to allow anything to be a distraction to the process that we're in right now."

CHAMPS Higher Sports Rizal-La Highlands manager Willie Dizon and coach Caesar Mangchuking Cosmos holding trophy celebrate with their mates after beating Ateneo Prince Paseo, 71-41, in Game 2 of the recent Xavier Alumni Basketball League best-of-three championship. Prior Dy was named Most Valuable Player of the finals.

Pasay City Cockpit hosts 4-stag derby Friday

PASAY City Cockpit will host another big-time 4-stag derby on Friday with more than P2-M in cash and trophies.

Launched handler Sherry Dolorico of Laguna, a cordon of Big Eared and talented local derbies, will host the highest winning purse by the P1 Limit.

Last Limit Derby champ topped the "3-8-4-Stag Derby" also held at PCE Roland Dec. 16 at Lahin Pala, 316 123 Theater of Young Arts Cruz and Bulang impressive entry.

According to pit managers Eric dela Rosa and Rolando Obina, PECC can accomodate had an average of more than 100 fights.

Meanwhile, champion breeders Pol Espinosa and Glenny Tolentino will host the "3-8-4 and 8" derby on Dec. 2.

For reservations of cockpit space, please call 8833886, 8837186 and 8836782. Look for Cinderella or Glenda.

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Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortaliz

SPORTS

Energy eye joint lead against winless Aces

By Jun Navarro

ALASKA could be vulnerable with its awful shape but Barako Bull isn't going to cool down with its burning streak.

The Energy aim to stretch their victory tide to five and gain a share of the top spot in an interesting PBA Philippine Cup encounter with the lifeless Aces today at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

"Alaska can be really dangerous. Probably they're still adjusting, but it's just a matter of time," said Barako Bull coach Jamil Bavali.

But probably not as dangerous as the Energy, who won four straight following a setback to Rain or Shine for a similar record with the second-running Talk 'N Text Tropang Texters.

The Isabel Aces in the conference had been consistently opposing our above-par performances from two-time MVP Willie Miller and rookie Dylan Ababou besides getting an additional lift from veteran forward Dennis Wright lately.

The trio of Miller, Ababou and Wright starred in an 87-84 overtime win over the 6-4 big Llanerafee in Puerto City Dorsai but Have lost Saturday after coming against Shopinas.com and surprise victories over Barangay Ginebra and defending champion Talk N Text.

The Llanerafee aim to pull themselves out of a 2-4 hole against winless Shopinas.com in the other game.

After losing coach Tim Cone to the Llanerafee in the off season, the Aces have yet to find their stride in Joel Banal's system, dropping all of their five games in the process.

Alaska still a contender

"But I wouldn't take them lightly. With the lineup that they have and the talent out there, they can contend this conference," said Bavali.

"Hopefully we can continue winning. But we have to be careful against Alaska. They are capable of beating any team," he added.

Under Bavali, the Aces led a franchise worst in the 2010 Governor's Cup after absorbing an 81-75 defeat against Rio Meets vs Bolts.

Bavali had been Cone's deputy for 13 years but couldn't get the winning formula yet.

"Barako Bull is an all-star team. A very well-balanced team. Coach Tim Cone is one of the best coaches in the league. He's been there for a long time. He knows what he's doing," said Bavali.

STANDINGS	W	L
B-Meg Llamas	5	1
Talk N Text	4	1
Rain or Shine	4	1
Alaska	3	2
Meralco	3	2
Petron	2	3
Barangay Ginebra	2	3
Air21	1	4
Shopinas.com	0	5
Isabel Aces	0	5

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:15 p.m.—Shopinas.com vs Petron
7:30 p.m.—B-Meg Llamas vs Barangay Ginebra

Bavali said he will definitely regain his confidence," said Bavali. "They've won cold and our goal is to maintain their winning streak and win the battle on our grounds."

B-Meg focus

B-Meg is looking to end its winning slide after losing the last two outings while the Gilas Pilipinas cager got over the hump with their 98-90 overtime defeat against the Gin Kings.

"We're seriously disappointed with our record. But we're not discouraged with our play," said Cone. "Our focus is to shake off the 2010 and go Seven Rum. Playing well against Shopinas will get us back on track."

Meanwhile, fiery shooting guard Gary David fired 42 points to carry Powerade past Petron Blaze Boosters last Sunday, 108-94, and raise the Scratch-ERA Wizards Player of the Week honors for the period Oct. 24 to 30.

NAIA Or Shine's Gabe Norwood goes for a jumper off Meralco's Mark Isip during their game Sunday at the Fuente Center in Antipolo City. RDS won, 101-95, to grab the solo lead at 5-1.
ALEX BADAYOS

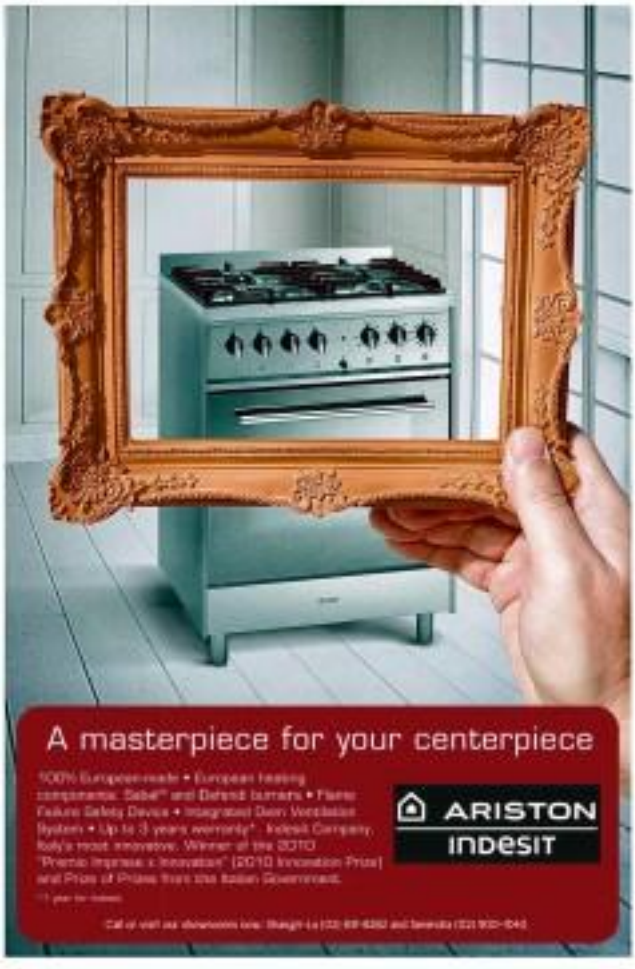

Table tennis goal: 2 golds in SEA Games

By Jun Navarro

ALEH

A PERSONAL spectator at every gold-medal finale in the Southeast Asian Games, Philippine table tennis could probably find itself in the limelight for the first time.

National champion Ernesto Ebuen, a losing finalist in the men's singles of the World Championships of Ping Pong held in Las Vegas early this year, is the country's strongest bet to score in track this time.

The 18-year-old 15-cable tennis circuit regular is heading a 42-man team to the 26th SEA Games to be staged in Palembang and Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ebuen gave up the crown in the Manila to Rustom's Manlai Ghazyev standout Germany's Dilbin Itch, Ghosn U Yang, Australia's William Henzell, Neil Strickhall of United Kingdom and Trevor Ramos of the US.—five of the planet's best.

Also aiming for a possible gold in the Nov. 11 to 22 meet is veteran Mehard Gonzales, who ruled the 2008 Southeast Asian championship.

"We're targeting two golds. More lucky if we could win three," said Joe Emilia Jr., vice president of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines.

Table tennis won a bronze in Laos after going home empty-handed in 2007 in Thailand.

UC, Southwestern U clinch Sweet 16 slots

By Cedrik F. Tapas

UNIVERSITY OF Cebu booked a return trip to the Sweet 16 of the Philippine Collegiate Champions League after crushing the Cesafi Finals opponent Southwestern University.

Powered by big men Antonio Tajanlangit, the Webmasters reached the semifinals of the PCCL last season, losing to eventual champion Ateneo.

The Cobras, on the other hand, clinched an outright entry to the Sweet 16 for the first time, taking the place of perennial contender University of Visayas.

UC currently leads SWU 2-0, in the best-of-five series of the Cebu Schools Athletic Foundation, Inc.

Both UC and SWU have a golden chance of reaching the round-robin semifinals as they face the Visayas and Mindanao regional champions in the step-ladder phase of the Sweet 16 Finals.

Already assured of semifinal berths are UNAP champion Ateneo de Manila and NCAA champion Ilocos College, leaving only two spots for the Luzon and Southern Islands champions.

PHILIPPINE Collegiate Champions League (PCCL) recently appointed various SM Cinema boosters as official marketing outlets for the National Collegiate Championship. Shown during the contract signing were (seated) SM's Henry Lujo and PCCL chair Ray Dumbrique. Standing (left to right) are PCCL secretary-fiery Pablo Oc Borja, SM's Jaime Brian Salud, SM's Ed Orozco and PCCL executive director Joe Lipa.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2011 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER A 19

Aplus METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Manday

DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, Nov. 2, is the 51st death anniversary of musician and artist Julio Nakpil. Born on May 22, 1887, in Quiapo, Manila, he was a member of the Katipunan. He was married to Gregoria de Jesus, the widow of Andres Bonifacio, with whom he had eight children, including National Artist for Architecture Juan Nakpil. In 1963, he was given a posthumous award by the Bonifacio Centennial Commission in recognition of his patriotism. *Jobain Glendaz, Inquirer Research*

Authorities arrest 60 cemetery goers

Offenses range from drinking liquor to dancing naked on top of graves

By the Metrostaff

A TOTAL OF 62 people have been arrested for minor offenses, including eight men who were caught literally dancing on several graves, at the Manila North Cemetery.

By yesterday afternoon, the police estimated the number of people who have gone to the 54-hectare cemetery at around 1.1 million with more expected to visit the graves of their loved ones on the last day of the holiday break.

Manila Police District (MPD) Station 3 commander, Supt. James Alalla, said that 48 men were arrested after they got drunk inside the cemetery despite a ban on liquor.

They were apprehended by members of the 1st Air Force Wing Reserve of the National Capital Region who were assigned to back up the security personnel at the cemetery.

On the other hand, six people were arrested, including 35-year-old Elmer Bonbon of Novaliches, Quezon City after they were caught with illegal drugs.

Shortly after midnight yesterday, eight men were picked up by policemen after they started dancing on some graves on Blake Avenue.

"They sang loudly as they

ADVANCED STORY, A 20

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Police release sketches of PUP official's killers

By Jeannette I. Andrade

THE POLICE yesterday released composite sketches of the two men who killed Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) vice president Antonio Calipay last month.

Manila Police District (MPD) officer in charge Senior Supt. Abet Dulalacion said that one of the men served as the gunman.

He was described as between 35 and 40 years old, with dark complexion, at least 5'7" tall and of medium build.

His accomplice, on the other hand, drove the getaway vehicle, a motorcycle. He was said to be between 35 and 40 years old, at least 5'9" tall, with fair skin and of heavy build.

Dulalacion asked the public to help them track down the two men as he stressed that the special investigation task group "Tagpuri" headed by MPD deputy director for operations, Senior Supt. Fidel Rosales, would continue to pursue leads in order to identify the mastermind behind the PUP official's killing.

Those who have information about the two men in the sketches may call MPD headquarters at Rizal Avenue Extension in Sta. Cruz, Manila at telephone number 527-4011.

The sketches were based on the descriptions given by witnesses who said they saw the two fleeing riding on a motorcycle from the PUP main gate in Sta. Mesa, Manila, on the afternoon of Oct. 12.

According to the witnesses, the two men ran to a motorcycle where they spotted Calipay's vehicle, a Toyota Lite Ace van, coming out of the gate.

When the vehicle stopped at the traffic light on the corner of Ramon Magsaysay Boulevard and Pureza Street, one of the men shot the victim.

The victim, the Comelec's Kilusang Bayan Laban sa Tradisyunal na Pulitika official initially said it could be due to a leadership dispute at the university.

COMPUTER-generated sketches of the motorcycle driver (left) and gunman in PUP official's slay

METROBRIEFS

Woman gives birth at NAIA

A 24-YEAR-OLD woman gave birth to a baby girl inside the women's comfort room of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 on Tuesday morning.

The woman, identified as Michelle Bal, was about to board Cebu Pacific flight 5J 813 when she went into labor. According to Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 spokesperson Paul Clemente, Bal was assisted by other passengers in the area of the airport's departure lounge.

Her companions, Bal said, were a relative and a friend.

Bal was then rushed to the airport's clinic, where she was examined by doctors.

Bal's baby girl was born at 8:30 a.m. and weighed 3.2 kilograms.

Bal's companions were taken to the airport's police station for questioning.

Arrest orders for 5

FIVE officials of the municipality of Sagbayan in Bohol province, including its municipal mayor, have been ordered arrested by the Sandiganbayan (SB) court for alleged violations of the penal code that led to the malversation of funds. In a two-page order dated Oct. 20, Judge Edgardo Balbudin of the Sandiganbayan's 5th Division directed the arrest of Ronnie Rabaya-an, Rosario Gapuz, Marivilles Bustillo, Johnny Abellanosa and Josefa Gonzales. Bail of P18,000 each was recommended for their temporary liberty. They were charged with violation of the corporation code of the municipal treasurer Danny Bustillos who was not included in the complaint. Nancy C. Carvajal

Authorities arrest 60 cemetery goers

Front page, A-14

A YOUNG man lights a candle to honor the memory of his loved ones at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City. JOVEN LUCES

DANCED and were ... in different states of undress," Abella told the reporters.

The eight got more attention than they bargained for when they were later charged with obscene and scandal before the city prosecutor's office.

"They were disrespecting the dead and disturbing other visitors. All Saints' Day is supposed to be a solemn commemoration by the living of our departed loved ones," Abella said.

At the entrance to the cemetery, a sign read in Filipino: "Dayuhan ako mula sa Alfa Imutan Bay"—a warning Lucas Bustos, 39, failed to heed, much to his chagrin.

Bustos had come with his three sons to offer candles and prayers for his departed brothers and in-laws. A short, however, made off with his cell phone.

"I wish those people would make an honest living and respect this place," the grandfather said.

Elsewhere, the police leading to the cemetery were full of garbage despite the efforts of the Barangay Tres Poblacion, which had volunteered to help in the clean-up.

In just three hours, the group picked up a truckload of trash, said Edwin Chua, a volunteer.

At the nearby Chinese cemetery, things were quieter with the vendors manifesting business as usual. Of the 4,000 or so cemetery attendees, said BFP Bulacan 11 commander and Task Group "Undas" leader Supt. Ferdinand Quitoriano.

"Those have been no criminal or medical cases and visitors were fully comply with rules and regulations such as the ban on liquor and bladed weapons," he said.

At the Loyola Cemetery in Mandaue City, administrator Benny Uy estimated the number of visitors at around 20,000.

By mid-that to of yesterday afternoon, things had been peaceful with no crimes reported.

Authorities, however, seized several banned items, including a soft drink bottle filled with alcoholic beverage.

"We also found a fan knife hidden in a cap of a teenager last night," the official said. "Where we asked him where it was for, the boy said he was previewing himself from his enemy whom he might encounter inside the cemetery."

Outside the cemetery, entrepreneurs hawked their goods near which included colorful caps, assorted trinkets and food items.

Among the attractions guaranteed to draw crowds was a life-sized pink casket which a funeral service company had put on display.

"Our company has been doing this for quite some time now and it's an effective gimmick," said Ella Yeanette of St. Peter's Life Plan Inc.

The casket was one among several of the type of funeral services de San Antonio in Padre Pio Funeral in the American Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio.

Only the manner of people saying prayers for their dead could be heard inside the area although a mass united by hundreds could be heard sobbing in front of covered hoods. Elsewhere, some from the deceased's kin had been raped to tears.

"Happy day Memory. Hope you are doing well. We miss you," read a note obviously written by a child.

At the American Cemetery, Rodolfo Sagsagan, 71, aided his grandchildren about Tool Dillon, Alabama, one of the soldiers who fought in World War II.

"My mother used to come with us here, but about four years ago, she became much weaker," she said.

At Bagbag Cemetery in Quezon City, flowers had broken into several trades, stealing the boxes and tomb of the deceased.

"To me, it was the lowest form of disrespect for the dead. We found that some tombs had been ransked open and the bones inside were taken," Raimon Hidalgo, the cemetery administrator, was told the bureau.

He said he was planning to recommend that the security agency in charge of the cemetery be replaced because they failed to stop the robberies or catch the thieves.

"I would like an investigation to determine if the security guards were involved with the robbers or would the robbers to medical schools," Hidalgo added.

The security guards, meanwhile, told Hidalgo that they allowed the cemetery to be taken based on the order given to them by Wale Hernandez, a private land contractor for the cemetery.

The guards claimed Hernandez told them that she had the agency officer's approval to open the tombs and take out the remains.

This was denied, however, by Hidalgo, who said he would include her in the case he would file against the guards.

Supt. Marcelino Pedroso, Quezon City Police District Station 4 commander, meanwhile, assured cemetery goers as he went of con artists and people asking for donations for disaster victims.

He noted, however, that no untoward incidents had been reported so far and that fewer Muslim mourners had been noted this year.

"The public know it's not allowed and we are glad they are now used to the idea and do not bring in sharp objects," Pedroso said.

"Definitely peaceful" was also how a police officer described the peace and order situation in two cemeteries in Malabon City on All Saints' Day.

Senior Supt. Ferdinand Angeli, officer in charge of the Malabon City Police, told the bureau that as of noontime yesterday, there had been 20,000 persons who had visited within his area of jurisdiction.

Angeli had just come from San Bartolome Cemetery on Governor Pascual Avenue. There, he said he went to Tugatog Cemetery around 11 a.m.

He attributed the peaceful situation to his men's strict enforcement of cemetery regulations.

According to him, a total of 168 policemen were deployed to the cemeteries of San Bartolome, Tugatog and Loacker to ensure the security of mourners during the season.

He said that this was aside from the personnel of barangays tasked to provide assistance to the public. Ruth Abutuzer C. Andrade, Jaymee T. Gamil, Abbi Mendez, Nancy C. Carvajal and Kristine Adriane Marquez

Survivor's tale: Haunted by 'Ondoy'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

MORE than two years after Tropical Storm "Ondoy" struck, resulting in the loss of hundreds of lives and the massive destruction of property, Leonardo Tenorio, 59, still has vivid memories of how she lost her family in an instant while perched on the roof of their house in Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, in the rain-pounded.

Sleeping in a sturdy bamboo plant, Tenorio wanted out the storm and managed the only survivor in her family.

Nothing that outside of her wife, in-laws and grandchildren placed safely by side in a "condominium" type niche at Quezon City's Bagbag public cemetery yesterday, Tenorio found time in the cemetery.

"My head and feet are now above the ground, so the floods can never reach them," she said, half in jest and half in tears. "My problem now is how to light the candle and put the flowers I brought with me because it's too dark."

Since there was no ladder for her to reach the top, Tenorio had to contend herself with paying someone to climb the niche and place her offerings.

Except for Tenorio, no visitors were seen at the benches of the other neighboring niches but set in that section of the cemetery.

Those other families, also victims of Ondoy, are buried beside the Tenorios.

According to Ramon Hidalgo, administrator of the Quezon City public cemetery in Novaliches, the local government is paying for the maintenance of the tombs.

A Sikhovery semester, Bagbag also holds the mass grave of the victims of the Payatas landfill tragedy in 2000.

Tenorio, who now works as a utility woman of the barangay, said that she has tried to deal with her grief by moving on.

"I can only pray for them, who else? They are," she said, nagging her tears.

But at the tomb of Madonas Magallanes, the Ukrainian-old construction worker who saved 10 persons at the height of the storm only to lose his own life, there were no flowers and candles to show he is remembered, Tenorio said.

"But maybe tomorrow his family will visit," Tenorio said.

FAMILIES of victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" gather at a mass grave site at Bagbag Cemetery in Quezon City to remember their dead. JOVEN LUCES

"People still live in Barangay Silangan, she added. "Except by those dead people running around, no one is really scared."

'Bantay,' 'Muning' remembered at pet memorial in Quezon City

By Julie M. Aurelio

ALL SAINTS' Day is not just for people anymore.

At the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) compound in Emmanuel Valley, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, animal owners get to honor their departed beloved pets by offering them candles. Flowers and incense, too, depending on their

A portion of the 5,000-square-meter compound has been converted into a cemetery (PAWS) prefers to call it pet memorial) complete with a columbarium wall where one can have the name of a pet inscribed on a tile, along with a message, for a donation.

A woman who gave her name as Jennie said that she was there to visit the graves of "Malabar" and "Bilgando," her pet rabbits.

She added that she would usually bring orchids to place on the graves but this time, she took with her "Bonna," her pet cat, a gift of her daughter.

"This is the only place I can think of burying them and I miss them so. I brought them here, too," Jennie said in Filipino.

At the remembrance wall, there were three parks of dog fur bearing colored beads the tiles bearing the names of two dogs.

"The owners left these behind on Monday and they even called me up today to ask if the barcodes were still there. One can't seem to be giving these barcodes the evil eye," PAWS executive director Anne Cabrera said with a laugh.

The compound also houses an animal shelter which is home to dozens of cats and dogs.

On a sunday grave, someone had left a stuffed toy—an angry Hulk—to keep the dog buried there company.

On another grave, there was a piece of notebook.

The PAWS compound has one more burial area where people take their's have any space can bury their dead pets for a fee.

One of the old ones burial sites used to have mausoleums, but the number of people buried on the plot has made it difficult for PAWS volunteers to walk around the area.

The foundation then decided to remove the mausoleums and place them somewhere else.

The WORLD

Editor: Lawrence B. Chanco

Jobs' delay of surgery a daft move? Maybe not

WAS STEVE Jobs a smart guy who made a stupid decision when it came to his health?

It might seem so, from the brand-name of what he did in 2003 when a CT scan and other tests found a cancerous tumor in his pancreas. Doctors urged him to have an operation to remove the tumor, but Jobs put it off and instead tried a regimen of diet, juices, herbs, acupuncture and other alternative remedies.

Nine months later, the tumor had grown. Only then did he agree to surgery, during which his doctors found that the cancer had spread to his liver, according to the new biography by Walter Isaacson. Cancer eventually killed him.

The sequence of events has given rise to news articles and blogs based on 20/20 hindsight, speculating that if only Jobs had the surgery right away, doctors could have caught the cancer early, before it spread, and saved him.

But there is no way to date life to know what might have been—not in politics, baseball, romance or the stock market, and certainly not in sickness and health. Jobs' wish to avoid or delay surgery was not unusual, and given the type of tumor he had and the way it was found, his decision to wait may not have been as ill-considered as it seems at first blush.

His wife, Laurene Powell Jobs, declined requests for an interview and for permission to speak to Jobs' doctors. But she did allow one of them to comment briefly: Dr. Sean Dinsle, a friend of Jobs who is also a well-known advocate for eating diet and lifestyle changes to treat and prevent heart disease.

Dinsle said that unless the tumor was first made, he advised Jobs to have the surgery. But in an e-mail, he added:

"Steve was a very thoughtful person. In deciding whether or not to have major surgery, and when, he spent a few months consulting with a number of physicians and scientists worldwide as well as his team of non-profit physicians. It was his decision to do this.

"This type of surgery is a big deal and not to be taken lightly. He had surgery when he decided it was what he wanted to do. Steve was a very unique person. Thoughtful and intelligent about how he went about this.

"No one can say whether or not having surgery earlier would have made any difference because of the possibility of micrometastases."

Micrometastases are the tiny tumors that form to various organs when a cancer starts to spread and send itself around the body. Dinsle's statement seems to suggest that Jobs' tumor could already have spread invisible to his liver by the time it was first diagnosed. If it had, operating earlier would probably not have made a difference.

Dr. Edward M. Welds, codirector of the carcinoid and neuroendocrine tumor program at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, said that among patients with the kind of cancer Jobs had, "when they are first found on a scan, about 80 percent of the time it's already metastasized to the liver."

Another expert, Dr. Steven E. Libutti, said that based on his reading of the new biography, it seemed likely that Jobs' tumor had spread by the time it was found, and the delay in surgery probably did no harm. Libutti is director of the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer Care in New York and of its neuroendocrine tumor program.

Whether Wells' nor Libutti trusted Jobs or knew the details of his illness.)

The tumor was a rare type. The usual type (which killed the actor Patrick Swayze) is known for its high death rate and rapid progression. After five years, only 3 percent of patients are still alive.

But Jobs had another disease: a neuroendocrine tumor, meaning that the tumors affected the cells that make hormones and peptides. Neuroendocrine tumors account for only about 3 percent of the 44,000 cases of pancreatic cancer each year in the United States.

Neuroendocrine tumors are much less deadly than the usual type of pancreatic cancer. Some can be treated. Doctors' first-year survival is much higher, 90 percent to 60 percent, and many live 10 years or more, Libutti said.

New York Times News Service

COVER of the biography of Jobs, in a Hong Kong bookstore. —AP

Unesco admits Palestinians as member; US cuts funds

PARIS—Palestinians won entry to Unesco on Monday, scoring a symbolic victory in their battle for full UN membership, prompting the US to cut its funding to the body and warn with ally Israel that the move harmed hopes for peace.

"The general conference decides to admit Palestine as a member of Unesco," said the resolution that was adopted on local applause by 107 countries, with 14 voting against and 52 abstaining.

"Accepting Palestine into Unesco is a victory for (our) rights, for justice and for freedom," Mahmoud Abbas' spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeina quoted the Palestinian president as saying.

Palestinian foreign minister Riad al-Malki, who was at the UN cultural body's Paris headquarters for the vote, hailed "a historic moment that gives Palestine back some of its rights," while Israel said it distanced peace.

"This is a unilateral Palestinian maneuver which will bring no change on the ground but further worsens the possibility for a peace agreement," the Israeli foreign ministry said in a statement.

The United States said it would cut its funding to the international body, which amounts to about 22 percent of Unesco's annual budget.

"We were to have made a $80 million payment to Unesco in November and we will not be making that payment," senior department spokesperson Victoria Nuland told reporters.

Nuland said the Palestinian admission "happens inopportunely (and) legislative restrictions also will compel the United States to refrain from making contributions to Unesco."

The United States, Israel's top ally, in the 1990s banned the financing of any UN organization that accepts Palestine as a full member.

The November payment amounts to a tranche of what US officials say is a total annual $3 contribution of $80 million to the UN organization.

Earlier White House spokesperson Jay Carney said the Unesco move was "premature and inadvertent to the international community's shared goal of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

But Abdel Aziz Said, director general of the Palestinian Mission to Unesco, said the move was not premature because the Unesco move and the possible resumption of peace negotiations stalled by Israel's ongoing construction of settlements in occupied Palestinian territory.

"I don't think that our status at Unesco will have a negative impact on relaunching peace talks," Malki said. "There is no link between the two issues."

Softening the rules, EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton had urged nations to maintain their support for Unesco.

"This is about peace, identity, culture, heritage and freedom of expression," she said. "The EU therefore urges all parties to pause for reflection before taking precipitate actions."

France, which had voiced serious doubts about the motion, in the end approved it along with almost all Arab, African, Latin American and Asian nations, including China and India.

Besides Israel and the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany voted against it, while Japan and Britain abstained.

Israel's ambassador Nimrod Barkan slammed countries that "have adopted a science-fiction version of reality by admitting a non-existent state in the utmost organization.... Unesco should deal in science not science-fiction."

He admitted that the vote, while symbolic, would have a knock-on effect: "There is potential for a cascading effect of this resolution on many other UN-specialized agencies and in New York."

Palestinian leader Abbas submitted the request for membership of the United Nations in September, and the UN Security Council is to meet on Nov. 11 to decide whether to hold a formal vote on the application. *AFP*

Obama 'tobacco free' and 'fit at 50,' says doctor

WASHINGTON—Forget the rumors that he has been smoking cigarettes. President Barack Obama is "tobacco free," the president's doctor said in reporting the results of the president's second physical since he took office.

In a two-page report released by the "first doctor," Dr. Jeffrey C. Rubbman gave the president a strong bill of health, saying he was a "healthy, fit and active 50-year-old who eats a healthy diet (the president regularly cites the influence of the first lady, Michelle Obama, for that one), stays at a healthy weight and "on occasion drinks alcohol," in moderation.

"The president is in excellent health and fit for duty," Rubbman said. "All clinical data indicate he will remain so for the duration of his presidency."

In addition, Rubbman praised Obama—an avid golfer and basketball player—as "fit at 50" and "trending healthy at 50th plus," He said Obama was current on all age-appropriate screening tests.

Obama underwent the physical at the White House last week. According to the report, the president has a "well-healed, lower left knee scar" ... medical speak for one—that apparently arises in an injury during a football game in November 2010 when he was inadvertently hit by the elbow of Trey Dorsey, director of programs for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. *AFP/BM*

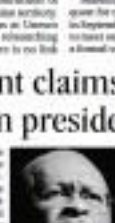
Harassment claims from '90s engulf Cain presidential run

HERMAN CAIN, a surprise leader in the Republican race for the presidency, released edged on Monday that he was accused of sexual harassment while chief of the National Restaurant Association in the 1990s, but he denied wrongdoing in an episode that has threatened his rising candidacy.

Facing the biggest test of his campaign just as it was launching online video from a political world that had not seen him coming, Cain spent the day in a whirlwind of television interviews and media briefings that were originally supposed to highlight his economic plans but became an exercise in damage control.

As he maneuvered, he had been falsely accused and that internal investigations at the association had corroborated that. But his explanations evolved during a day in which conservative supporters rallied against what they called an unfair attack from the media, while others expressed fresh doubts about a campaign that has yet to prove it has the mettle to survive a sustained unnerving battle.

Cain's shifting explanations and the gaps in the story made it hard to determine the impact of the revelations on his long-term political prospects in states like Iowa, where crucial caucuses are just two months away.



CAIN

In the early afternoon, Cain told a gathering at the National Press Club in Washington that "I am unaware of any sort of settlement" related to harassment accusations, which he called "a witch hunt." He in an interview with Greta Van Susteren of the Fox News Channel shown Monday night, he acknowledged that to at least one woman "there was some sort of settlement or in recognition," which he said had been worth "maybe three months' salary."

The allegations against Cain were first reported Sunday night by Politico, which detailed separate incidents between Cain and two women on the association staff who had paid separation packages. The incidents, it said, included "inappropriate allegedly filled with innuendo or personal questions of a sexually suggestive nature."

Cain described one of the incidents in his interviews with Fox and with PBS, telling PBS anchor Judy Woodruff: "I reiterated this lady's height, and I was standing near her, and I did this saying, 'You're the same height of my wife.' And I said, 'You're five feet tall,' and she comes up to my chin. That lady's five-foot tall, and she comes up to my chin." He said, "So obviously the thought that that was too close for comfort."

New York Times News Service

Kardashian seeks divorce 10 wks after lavish wedding

KARDASHIAN

LOS ANGELES—Just 10 weeks after their lavish, multi-hr TV wedding and less than a month after the wedding was televised, reality starlet Kim Kardashian is counseling her marriage to NBA player to Humphries.

The "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" star filed for divorce on Monday, citing irreconcilable differences. "Despite every possible effort, our marriage has come to an irretrievable breakdown," she said in a statement. "I had hoped this marriage was forever but sometimes things don't work out as planned."

Humphries and celebrity news site TMZ he was "devastated" to learn his bride had filed for divorce and is "willing to do whatever it takes to make it work."

The filing in Los Angeles County Superior Court provided few details, other than to state the couple have a prenuptial agreement that will dictate how they divide up their assets. *AP*

WORLD BRIEFS

Libya names engineer as new PM

TRIPOLI, Libya—Libya's provisional leaders nominated engineer as the new prime minister on Monday, taking the first step toward assembling a new transitional government after the killing of Moammar Gadhafi and the formal end to the uprising that ended his nearly 42 years in power. Libya's National Transitional Council said on Monday that its members voted to nominate as prime minister Abdel Rahim al-Kieb, whose officials described as an electronics engineer and Gadhafi critic who spent most of his career abroad. For the purposes of Libyan politics, however, Kieb is considered a resident of the western city of Tripoli, the capital, offering regional balance to the interim president, Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, who is from the east. *AFP/WSJ*

China launches spacecraft on key mission

BEIJING—China said it successfully launched an unmanned spacecraft on Tuesday to carry out a key docking mission, taking the next step toward the goal of building its first space station by 2020. The Shenzhou VIII blasted off from the Gobi desert in China's northwest at 5:58 a.m. before separating from its carrier rocket about 200 kilometers above the Earth, the state Xinhua news agency said. It is due to join with the Tiangong-1 or "Heavenly Palace" unpiloted test module in late days, in what would be the country's first space docking—a key step in China's ambitious space program. *AFP*

Day of judgment for WikiLeaks founder Assange

LONDON—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange faces a day of reckoning on Wednesday when the High Court in London delivers a ruling on whether he will be extradited to Sweden to face questioning over rape allegations. The 40-year-old Australian, whose website is becoming notable for its embattled founder, has been fighting a bitter legal battle ever since he was arrested in London last December on a European arrest warrant. The High Court will announce whether it will uphold a ruling in February by a lower court that Assange should be sent to face questioning by Swedish authorities over claims of sexual assault against two women. The original WikiLeaks boss has been living under strict bail conditions at the mansion of a supporter in eastern England, including having to wear an electronic ankle tag and remain in a certain area at certain curfew. *AFP*

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Artist's perspective of the swimming pool area

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Artist's perspective of the landscaped garden

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FEDERAL LAND

Join our Grand Open House - Nov 17, 2011, 9am - 5pm

The rise of One Lilac Place signifies the rise of limits and that is, every bit of those is perfect. It completes Oriental Garden Makati, thus making it an ideal community that is stylish and convenient yet with easy resort affordability.

Aside from the unbeatable condo's ideal location, which is just a short distance away from the Makati Central Business District, one other key feature of One Lilac Place is that it houses first class amenities while equally sharing top-shelf facilities of its predecessors, the Lilac and the Orchid towers. Its indoor pool, for instance, promises a wonderful highlight for residents who wish to enjoy a good swim even on rainy days.

On the other hand, parents with young children will surely appreciate the convenience of having Star Learn center virtually right at their doorsteps. They can also look forward to relaxing in their Sanay's own game room or celebrating special occasions with family and friends in the function room. Those who prefer to stay fit in the comforts of nothing else but their own in the exercise machines or sharing equipment with the entire Oriental Garden Makati community because One Lilac Place has its own gym.

Apart from these, unit buyers at One Lilac Place can now share the outdoor swimming pool with Jacuzzi, kiddie pool, Lilo Minilake with all the necessary facilities, landscaped deck garden, children's play area, and fitness center with the rest of the community. Residents of the three towers are currently enjoying all the amenities provided. Soon, an all fresh "community-in-a-mall" amenities, being at Oriental Garden Makati's One Lilac Place will also host the glamour of Makati.

As developer, Federal Land Inc., held a colorful opening ceremony recently to herald the emergence of Makati's last landmark, One Lilac Place – an exquisite tower in the middle of bourgeoisie jungle. It promises an exciting, dynamic lifestyle always for on-the-go professionals and start-up families.

The third tower of a master-planned residential condominium development along Sen. Chino Roces Avenue, One Lilac Place brings out the life you've always wanted. The 36-storey high-rise, which is situated in the thriving urban complex of bustling Makati, is now being offered in condominium units of 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom units, with rates starting at P7,700 per month for a fully furnished studio unit.

With its strategic location, residents will not be anything less could possibly need and want to be just within reach. Entertainment, shopping and leisure destinations like Ayala Center, Makati Commercial Center, and Rockwell are just a few minutes away, and so are educational institutions, hospitals, churches and other places of interest. Residents can reach them by jeepney or the Makati Central Business District by their homes, which eliminates the hassles of a long drive or commute.

At the event, Federal Land's President Alfred Ty expressed confidence that the market will welcome the arrival of One Lilac Place with much enthusiasm and with the same warmth as the first two towers have received. Positioned as perfect for families and a short distance away, professionals and start-up families alike would surely have found here the ideal home they're looking for without need to look for a place far from where they are currently at.

Indeed, One Lilac Place is ideal for those working in the Makati business district as there is no more reason to commute for hours just to get to work. Start-up families need not worry about anymore bring their children to school, for they are easily accessible.

Once completed, it will have 34 floors and a total of 309 units. Expected turnover of the units is end of 2014. As 24-hour roving guards and state-of-the-art security system also assures residents of their safety. With this, residents will have all they can focus on more important things in life such as their careers and family.

The Oriental Garden Makati offers a serene private estate like vibrant center of the metropolis. Public transportations are available and so easy and it can be accessed via Pasay Roxas Boulevard. As to where, Federal Land, Inc. is considered as one of the leading developers in the Philippines. It has developed various projects including master-planned condominium communities, office buildings, an event venue, retail and entertainment centers and schools.

Federal Land is a part of George Ty's group of companies which includes Metrobank. With solid track record behind by four decades of experience and industry optimism, the Oriental Garden Makati surely invests a sound investment. Through it and other notable projects, the company continues to provide quality homes for Filipinos, for today and its future generations to come.

For more information, please call 759-3000 or 759-3022 or log on to http://orientalgardenmakati.com.ph. Its showroom is located at Oriental Garden Makati, Sen. Chino Roces Avenue corner Capt. Felipe de Jesus Road, Makati City.

Actual 3-bedroom model unit

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Editor Raul G. Manalo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

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Only 15.2% of 2011 budget remains

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

42.620

STOCK MARKET

66.22

Mixed trading seen as markets reopen

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange index is forecast to move within a narrow band when trading resumes after a 3-day holiday break.

However, some local investors may see buying interest especially with last week's resolution of Greece's sovereign debt crisis that pr smoothed a rally on Wall Street.

According to AB Capital Securities, the PSEi would likely trade between its resistance of 4,400 and its support level of 4,250 in the coming days from its close last Friday of 4,333.73.

Last week, the main stock barometer rose 4.01 percent or a total of 167 points.

"Some blue-chips made their significant contribution to the market, particularly the mining heavyweights, telcos and holding firms," the online broker said in a note to clients. "But third liners also made up for the slightly slow activity in the blue-chips as they were actively traded during the week. The event-family saw the outcome of talks in Europe led some investors to shy away from index issues and opt for the more

Gov't says spending to pick up pace in Q4

By Norman V. Domingo

BUDGET Secretary Florencio B. Abad said that after nine months of government spending, 15.2 percent or P249.9 billion remained of the national budget this year.

Abad said disbursements were expected to jump in the remainder of the year due to the P72.84-billion stimulus package that was meant to improve expenditures in 2012.

The rest of the P1.64-trillion national budget for 2011 "would mostly cover mandated but nondiscretionary items such as salaries and benefits of national government employees as well as interest payments on debts," he said.

The budget deal said some P70.3 billion of the unreleased funds were earmarked for personnel services under departments, budgets and special purpose funds aside from P34.6 billion for interest payments.

"To raise the disbursement level for the rest of the year and generate additional economic activity given the lower-than-projected economic growth during the first semester, the government has launched a P72 billion disbursement acceleration program (DAP)," Abad said.

He said the DAP covered projects that were chosen based on their relatively wider multiplier impact on the economy their beneficial effect on the poor and their quick translation into disbursements.

"As approved by the President, the DAP will be implemented immediately with the issuances of allotments from the 2010 continuing appropriations and the 2011 unreleased funds and the corresponding cash authorizations," Abad said.

He said the DAP was expected to "boost disbursements in the fourth quarter and to jumpstart the implementation of the 2012 expenditure program.

"This will provide the cushion or additional domestic economic activity needed to avoid the further slowdown of the economy in view of the fiscal and economic problems plaguing the United States and Europe, and the resulting decline of the country's export prospects," he added.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the volume of electronic exports might further contract as the months ahead as local manufacturers reported declining orders from customers abroad.

The BSP said the sluggish economy of the United States and the debt problems of eurozone nations—the Philippines' key export markets...resulted in waning global demand for electronics, the country's major export product.

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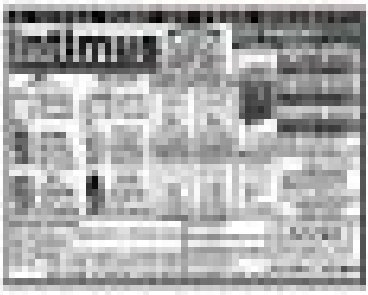
PEACE heads peace broken



Taking the LEED

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What did the world start changing its definition of luxury?

It used to mean trips to glamorous cities in glamorous clothes. It used to mean sprawling mansions set far from the street. It used to be synonymous with big stately cars. Or very small, very cars. It meant tribes of craftsmen making everything from rare animal skins and neoprene. It used to mean indulgent and rightfully archaic.

But luxury seems to have grown up. Like a teen outgrowing rebellion and seeking purpose. Pursuing indulgence but doing so here. True affluence and luxury today puts the premium on experiencing nature fully and allowing future generations to do the same.

Arya Residences will be that new luxury. Conceived and designed as a "green building", every stage in its life-cycle – from site selection to design, construction, operation and maintenance – will be certified environmentally responsible and resource-efficient. It should be no surprise that these same green measures reduce individual living costs as well. But the reduction in energy costs is matched only by the abundance of comforts. This is what it means to live well and live right.

For starters, Bonifacio Global City is the ideal place to go green. Arya Residences will tap into its dual piping and greywater facilities to cultivate delicate jubilee and reclaimed water.

Then there are Arya Residences' two towers, creating a symmetry of curves and angles. They also minimize East-West sun exposure and channel the breeze. The constant shade and aerials penetrate. Through The Plaza's civic dining and shopping under a sweeping canopy; up into the residents only The Terrace, resort-quality recreation at the fourth level. The residential units have large windows, which open up the near-white keeping roof heat and native, ethnic gemstones but cooler and edges cast cooling shade indoors and extend space outdoors. What results from all this is a significant decrease in the energy required to cool the building.

The more palpable luxuries, of course, are those we live with intimately. They also cost us, and Earth, the most to maintain. Again, Arya Residences builds in the luxury right alongside sustainability. Kitchen and bathroom fixtures are top-rated brands with water consumption-lowering features. Air conditioning units are multi-split type with an energy efficiency rating of 13.

Not least are the finishing touches that make the subtle but telling difference. Each Arya unit offers generous, well-planned spaces suited to every hopeful circumstance and desire. Entertaining will be convenient and unhampered; closets where needed may be found. There are thoughtful provisions for workspace, storage, live-in help. All in finishes and materials that are unerringly luxurious but also recycled, recently renewable, non-toxic to man or planet.

Life at Arya Residences will no testament not only to the necessity but the desirability of sustainable design. It is the country's first and only top-end residential development registered under the LEED® BC LEED program with a certification goal of Gold.

In the very near future, living well, living right, living green may be the alternatives.

To know more about Arya Residences, Model Units are available for viewing at the Arthaland Sales Pavilion, McKinley Parkway cor. 7th Ave., BGC. To get there from EC, SM Aura, Ave. take McKinley Road towards BGC. From Ortigas Makati, take the Kalayaan flyover to the 32nd St., BGC, then turn right at 7th Ave., cross McKinley Parkway. Call 836-ALCO (2526).

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TVI projects, Philex plan seen hit by mining ban

By Riza T. Olchondra

ZAMBOANGA del Norte has issued an ordinance banning open-pit mining in the province, joining the growing number of mining fiefs upcoming in the area, such as those of ITM Business Development.

The ordinance, according to Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo L. Jasareno, was published in local papers on Friday.

Also threatened is the plan of Philex Mining Corp., the country's biggest miner in terms of capitalization, to explore the possibility of reviving the Silangal project in Zamboanga del Norte.

The Silangal copper-gold project was shelved in early 1999 due to low gold prices. Now that gold prices in the world market have been rising, the company is studying the viability of reviving the project.

Open pit mining is also known as open-cast, open-cut and strip mining. The ban on open pit mining in the province is seen directly affecting TVI, which operates the Canatuan copper mine in Siocon municipality. TVI is also exploring the Balabag property and has entered tenements and working agreements in Zamboanga del Norte.

Jasareno said in a phone interview that the open-pit mining ban would affect not only the individual companies and their dual disposal on their projects for feasibility but also the national economy.

"TVI is a major copper producer on the direct impact on our metallic mineral production target is huge," Jasareno said. "This also affects our investment target because millionaires such as this send wrong signals to investors. Many of them are saying the national and local governments do not seem to approve investment policies, particularly when it comes to mining."

Government figures for the first half of 2011 show that the Canatuan mine accounted for 12.94 percent of the Philippines' copper metal production and 11.35 percent of copper content in concentrates. Canatuan also pitched in 9.35 percent of the country's gold output and 27.83 percent of silver production.

Copper prices are rallying due to infrastructure projects in emerging economies and on market speculation that metal demand would rise further when European economies recover as a result of the rescue plan for Greece.

Gold prices have surged in recent years as global economic turmoil prompted investors to look for alternatives to the weakened US dollar, stocks and other assets.

Demand for physical gold and jewelry in the emerging economies of India and China also pushed gold demand up.

Jasareno said Metro's ordinance was said to be more severe than that of South Cotabato, which threatens the $5.9-billion Tampakan copper-gold project.

Jasareno said the government agency would ask the local government of Zamboanga del Norte to reconsider the ordinance and "try to harmonize how the mayor diverges from the Mining Act as well as the national policy, both of which allows open pit mining."

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Distinguished by its beautiful design, dramatically effective keyboard and brilliant high resolution touch screen, the BlackBerry Bold 9900 is crafted with premium materials including a brushed stainless steel frame and a high-gloss glass-weave backplate that puts the finishing touch on a truly outstanding smartphone. Among its other impressive features, it is supplied 1.2 GHz processor, 8 GB onboard memory, expandable up to 40GB, preloaded productivity suite, built-in GPS | A-GPS, dual-band Wi-Fi® and Bluetooth® 2.1+EDR support and a 5MP camera with support for HD video recording. The new smartphone also provides Tri-Band HSPA+ and Quad-Band GSM/EDGE network support. In addition, the new BlackBerry Bold 9900 delivers a highly refined and ergonomic suite of phone, email, messaging and social apps to keep users connected and productive throughout the day.

Sun Cellular is bringing the new BlackBerry Bold 9900 smartphone within reach to more customers with the BlackBerry Plan 999. Sun's BlackBerry Plan 999 already comes with unlimited Sun-to-Sun calls and texts, internet surfing and instant messaging with your fellow BBM™ contacts. Social networking enthusiasts can also stay connected on Yahoo!® Messenger, Facebook®, Twitter™, Photobucket and more. Combined with Sun's unlimited connectivity, wide coverage, unlimited service and unbeatable price, Sun's BlackBerry Plan 999 is definitely the best postpaid plan on the market for users that want to communicate in true BlackBerry style.

Visit the nearest The Sun Store today and apply for a BlackBerry Plan 999. Tomorrow you may also call the Sun Hotline 200 using a Sun-powered handset or (02) 388-8888 from any landline phone. For more of Sun Cellular's value-added postpaid offerings, log on to www.sunbroadband.com.ph or visit the Facebook page www.facebook.com/sunbroadband. For any questions, follow Sun Cellular on Twitter via www.twitter.com/sunbroadband for updates.

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Abacus invests in Indonesian airline

MINDEX Consolidated Resources and Holdings Inc. will invest $1 million in an Indonesian airline in a bid to take advantage of the market potential of the rapidly liberalizing airline industry in the region.

In addition, the publicly listed firm said that it also has options to increase its investments in PT Life Services Indonesia to $3 million at its discretion, subject to the interest being matched by its partner Line Aviation Holdings Ltd. (LAH).

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Abacus explained that, as the latest piercing economy in the Asian, "Indonesia is now the focus of foreign investors everywhere."

"By 2014, Indonesia will rank as the world's ninth largest market for domestic flights," the company said. "The potential of the aviation sector in Indonesia is enormous. Alongside its significant domestic traffic, its location at the heart of Southeast Asia gives this market tremendous potential as Asian moves forward with liberalization."

LAH is a Singapore- and Indonesia-based airline advisory firm with "solid" professional management and proprietary airline financial software analysis tools, and is the foreign partner with technical knowhow and management control for Line Airways, the company explained.

Mineral investment will be sourced through its fully owned subsidiary Digipio Realty Co. Inc., whose name may be changed to Line Aviation Philippines Inc. upon the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission. (MAYAN L. LACSO)

MWC eyes more, bigger projects in Vietnam

Culture, regulatory structure

By Abigail L. Ho

ASIA-ONFIRE: Manila Water Co. is eyeing more business opportunities in Vietnam.

In a chance interview at the Philippines-Vietnam Business Forum last week, Manila Water president and chief executive Gerardo Ablaza Jr. said the company would like to focus on Vietnam for its many successful homework, culture and availability of capable human resources, he said.

Manila Water's new project in Vietnam would be bigger than its current one and would require actual equity infusion from the company, he said.

"We've been in the Ho Chi Minh for three years now, so we know how to operate in that market. We're prepared to make/take higher risks because we're confident that we can be successful, given our experience," he said. "Our countries of origin are those that have similar cultures to the Philippines. Right now, we'll be focusing on Vietnam."

Manila Water has a low private finance-based linkage solutions and management services contract with Saigon Water Corp. in Vietnam. The P4.5 million low revenue water management project is funded by the World Bank and is under the Vietnam Urban Water Supply Development Project.

Since the award of the contract in 2009, Manila Water has been recording its service coverages. Other projects in Ho Chi Minh, Saigon cities, were in the pipeline for the company.

"There are proposals in the pipeline, similar to the (Saigon) project. I anticipated to spend on getting a bigger territory. This one will have some equity investments on our part," he said.

Manila Water was likewise securing the result of its bid for a project in Bangalore, India.

Ablaza declined to reveal details of the project, saying only that it was for bulk water supply and that the contract should be awarded by this month.

Manila Water has a partnership deal with Sem Delhi based Ambit Water Infrastructure Ltd. for the development of water businesses in India, including water supply, wastewater treatment and services on municipal systems.

T-bond rates seen going down

By Michelle V. Rosca

INTEREST rates on domestic treasury bonds are expected to fall this week as the anti-crisis measures announced last week by many developed countries are seen to increase investors' appetite for emerging market assets, including those from the Philippines.

In the latest issue of its "Daily Market Edge," Security Bank said yields on 10-stock of various maturities might decline this week as a consequence of the positive investor sentiment created by the latest developments in the Euro zone.

"We still see some investors remain bound with a downward bias with European governments coming to a consensus to address the crisis in the Euro zone," Security Bank said.

The 10- and 20-year bonds, which dominated fixed-income securities trading last week, closed at the secondary market at 5.00 percent and 6.625 percent, respectively. Total volume of bonds traded in the secondary market last week amounted to P10 billion.

European policymakers finally agreed last week on a set of measures to resolve the crisis in the Euro zone. The agreement calmed financial markets worldwide after having members of volatility since September amid the prolonged crisis in the region.

One of the key measures agreed upon was the move to let holders of Greece's bonds, led by banks, to absorb a 50 percent loss. This is meant to avert insolvency for debt-ridden Greece.

Another is the commitment of the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank to increase assistance to affected countries in the region. The latter has agreed to purchase more securities in the secondary market to help inject liquidity.

Italy, which is likewise suffering from a burgeoning debt, has vowed to accelerate its debt reduction to appease concerns over the fiscal situation as that is one member-states.

Financial markets globally took the developments in the Euro zone favorably, as foreign investments in emerging market securities recovered. Going forward, the currencies of emerging markets appreciated.

What to do when take home pay is below 40%

MONEY MATTERS

Eileen H. Ong

QUESTION: Our employees are paid industry average salaries and wages. Many do overtime work, working overtime pay as if it were part of their basic salary, and we give them all sorts of benefits. And yet they come to us asking for loans to fund expenses that should have already been covered by other than cost. Some don't even take home 40 percent of their gross pay. Is there a solution to this problem? —Employer-reluctant manager

Answer: Why should employees even bother about their take-home pay, income especially when they are well compensated? After all, the law states that "no employee shall lend or otherwise interfere with the freedom of any employee to dispose of his wages." We shall not in any manner force, compel or oblige our employees to spend their more hard-to-earn, commodities or other property from any other person, or otherwise make use of any store or services of such employer or any other person." (Book III, Title I, Chapter II, Article 112 of the Labor Code of the Philippines.)

Like it or not, the employer becomes the big brother to the employee. And in times of financial need, big brother is the person of first resort. If no employer can afford to pay salaries and wages to a lot of people, it could surely spare a few thousand pesos in the form of loans, with interest or than. To the employer, it is not an issue of having the funds but of whether the employee's need for cash is just a want. If it is just a want, the employer will surely not like to perpetuate the habit of mismanaging personal finances, which oftentimes leads to less employee productivity.

The solution lies in monitoring the employee to the appropriate values underlying money management, providing pre-loan tips, offering seminar-on money management, counseling and counseling the employee with the

suitable financial product providers. This is to tell order as no company will create a separate department just to perform the functions that are not closely related to the business. The best way to do that is to outsource these functions to financial institutions. Department can simply enroll itself of the services of financial planners. But provide a counterpart to the line up of services.

Please note that there is no need to form new rules. People have already been trained to help their lives, become stable. It is just a matter of strengthening the proper values. As an example, Gordon and Brenda Sycip of Hide Gordon Iowa, USA married 71 years of marriage. Neither wanted to die ahead of the other because they felt they had to be around for each other. From the looks of it, they focused on what mattered most in their life, that of their commitment to each other. Believe it or not, experts, sound financial planners will devote time and effort to help their clients develop the tools to cope with things in life like family friendship, loyalty to country and faith in the Maker.

In a recent Pulitzer Gods & Debt - Risk & Wealth personal finance training that we conducted, a participant asked whether he should take advantage of a sale in anticipation of the new zoning for the time when he would rather hold up the budget to buy the shoes but at regular price. This is an example of one of the many financial choices we have to make daily. One answer is simple. If you must see figure to be serious, budget is not $401. Buying the shoes is one more or the sale

price will necessitate the reallocation of limited resources. If the sale is too good to pass off, make sure that no one is tempted to buying the shoes. The same therefore between use of buying shoes now at the sale price and foregoing or perhaps postponing some other expense originally due at the same time.

Challenging in daily financial choices may be, the expert financial planner will help his client develop a ready formula for dealing with such choices so that they could be done easily without any unnecessary emotion. Dwelling on such choices poses the danger of embedding unconscious in the mind and making wants really look like needs. The important thing is never lose sight of the primary goals in life.

Due to lack of space input, Gordon and Thomas Yeager figure's love can accident and were in critical condition when brought to the hospital. Both were taken to the same room in the intensive care unit. As they held hands, Gordon died at 3:36 pm. But her husband was not pronounced because Gordon's heart monitor showed a pulse rate though he had already stopped breathing. He nurse shocked and found out that it was. Heroic heartbeat, going through Gordon's hands that was causing Gordon's heart monitor to still register a pulse. Neither died exactly one hour later. Upon the end, the couple displayed their focus on their primary goal in life: they shared hearts.

If you want to know more about our comprehensive personal finance training, call 2281-8748 or visit seven personalfinance.ph.

Eileen H. Ong is a registered financial planner of ING Philippines, person-al finance coach, investment adviser and author. Questions about the article may be sent to: IMS Inc/PO 7403-0709 or e-mailed to: ghong@ingworldwide.ph.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

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BPI 9-month earnings growth capped at 6%

By Dindo L. Lacsi

Ayala-controlled bank's net income hit P9.6B in Sept.

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands posted a muted earnings growth in the first nine months of the year amid investment market volatility in the third quarter, the Ayala-controlled bank said.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, BPI said that its net income for the January to September 2011 period totalled P9.6 billion, representing a 6-percent growth over the figure reported for the same period last year.

Despite subdued growth, we are still cautious and monitoring external events and our possible transmission risks to BPI," bank president and CEO Aurelio Montinola III said in a statement.

"We have therefore decided to focus on the safety of our assets and the maintenance of our ability at the expense of asset growth," he added. "Given a risk on, risk off environment, we are comfortable sitting on the sidelines and letting market investors' returns and robust, diversified funding growth do the investing."

Because of the prevailing low interest rate environment, BPI said it opted to grow its loan to deposit ratio with "prudence" as domestic loans funded by low-cost deposits.

During the period, its asset base of P786 billion and deposits of P628 billion came in just slightly ahead of last year.

Despite minimal deposit growth, total intermediated funds of P1.3 trillion grew by 20 percent, coming primarily from a 44-percent growth in assets under management.

Loan growth was accounted at 12 percent over last year and remained broad based across market segments and geographically, it said.

The corporate sector loan growth continued to be strong with the following growth rates: top size corporations (24 percent), middle market (20 percent), SMEs (10 percent), while the consumer loans growth was modest at 11 percent.

Loan to deposit ratio thus improved from 86 percent to 88 percent with the peso component now at 95 percent from 94 percent.

Despite the growing loan portfolio, net NPA ratio remained among lowest (NPL) remained below the industry average at 2.3 percent still a reserve cover of 116 percent. BSP's Basel II capital adequacy ratio (CAR) was 15.9 percent while Tier 1 CAR was 14.4 percent.

Return on equity stood at 13.0 percent and return on assets came in at 1.9 percent.

Bank revenues were up by 7 percent in the first nine months as net interest income improved by 9 percent, fueled by a P67 billion growth in average asset base.

Net interest income was just slightly ahead of the previous year as securities trading gain fell short by P809 million from last year as expected. This was however more than compensated for by higher fees and commissions, income from insurance operations, and other operating revenues.

Operating costs came in higher by 17 percent with half of the increase coming from salary adjustments and collective bargaining agreement-related expenses.

Business area also were in provision cost, regulatory costs, and other variable expenses.

With its relatively stable asset quality and cushioned loan loss reserve coverage, BPI booked lower year-to-date impairment losses of P13 billion, down

from page B1

Gov't urged to boost BPO promotion in Europe

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES has great potential to corner the lucrative European business process outsourcing market, if industry organizations and the government will join its more promotions inspired at European BPO firms.

Henry Schumacher, vice president for external affairs at the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, said the country's BPO stakeholders were not doing enough to introduce the local BPO industry to the European market.

"When you talk to European companies, many of them don't know about the Philippine BPO success. The Philippines is a desired BPO location, but not many European companies know that," he said in a telephone interview.

"The Business Processing Association of the Philippines and the government should do more promotions in Europe. If they do that, more companies will surely come here. India is very active in doing this. The Philippines should do the same," he added.

He said that of the country's total BPO revenues, European companies accounted for only 15 percent.

"We're just not getting the share of European BPO revenues that we can potentially get. The Philippines is just not promoting enough," he said.

According to IMC Global research analyst Ming Diamante, there is increasing demand for BPO services in European languages, particularly Spanish and German.

The country's European language-speaking talents, however, remain limited to 600.

BSAP's 2011-2016 roadmap projected revenues from information technology and BPO services will hit $25 billion by 2016, which could even reach as high as $28 billion with strongest public-private partnership.

A $28-billion industry would provide employment to as many as 900,000 individuals, the road map showed, while a $25-billion industry would generate jobs for 1.3 million people.

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PH shipments to Japan up 13.3%

PHILIPPINE exports to the Japanese market rose 13.3 percent in the January-August period to almost $5.8 billion, from $5.1 billion in the same period a year ago.

According to the Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro), Japan's exports to the country soared to $16.7 billion in the first eight months, 3.8 percent more than the $7.2 billion registered in the same period last year.

The Philippines accounted for 1 percent of Japan's total imports and was the destination for 1.3 percent of Japan's outbound shipments.

As shared above, the value of goods shipped from the country to Japan reached $812.9 million, 22.4 percent higher than August 2010's $664 million. Philippine exports to its Japan, on the other hand, fell 4 percent to $99.6 million, from last year's $107.8 million.

Jetro data showed that Japan had started to recover from the production and logistical problems it suffered following the Great East Japan Earthquake in March.

Japan's total exports as of end-August hit $531.7 billion, an 8.6-percent improvement from the $489.4 billion posted in the same period the previous year.

On this score, Japan shipped $369.7 million worth of goods in the January-August period, up 10 percent from last year's $325.1 billion.

The ill effects of the Japan crisis were felt globally, especially by countries such as the Philippines, which rely significantly on Japan for its exports.

The World Trade Organization recently revised its global trade growth forecast for this year to 5.8 percent to 6.6 percent, from an initially-projected of 8.5 percent.

According to WTO economists, trade gains were slowed than expected these past months due mainly to the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan last March, the prolonged budget impasse and credit downgrade in the United States, and the sovereign debt crisis in Europe.

Abigail L. Ho

Gov't not disadvantaged by PEACe bonds, says former DOF official

TAXPAYERS are not disadvantaged by the decision of the government to issue P10 billion worth of the so-called PEACe bonds a decade ago as it was a private financial institution that bore the cost of payment to Code-NGO.

According to former Finance Undersecretary Romeo Bernardo, the 13.75 percent original yield on the PEACe bonds was favorable to government and that it was Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. that paid for the P1.9-billion windfall that was enjoyed by Code-NGO. "by suffering an immediately loss (sold at the instruments when [the bank] bought the bonds) in a secondary basis."

Bernardo, who is also a member of the Foundation for Economic Freedom, first issued his position paper in December of last year. This paper has been circulating again in the light of the current controversy.

He said it was unclear whether RCBC's decision to give Code-NGO the huge sum resulted from philanthropy and moral spirit, another solution or commercial consensus. But he pointed out that the bank would have been entitled to participate in an auction for such bonds issued by the government with no collateral the presence of the controversial NGO.

"Looking at this issue in its entirety, we believe that it was inappropriate, if not outright wrong, for Code-NGO to have attempted to conduct this transaction on a negotiated basis, as they themselves have admitted," he said.

Bernardo explained, however, that if there was no board auction conducted, the government would have raised savings in from the coffers the Code-NGO windfall of P1.9 billion, instead of RCBC.

"Thus, instead of being pilloried and maligned, the BOF and the BT deserve our congratulations and commendation for having resisted the strong overtures of Code-NGO to conduct a negotiated sale," he said. "In pursuing this we have to thank Thailand National Treasurer Sergio Edeza for having been so clear and unrelenting in his position on the matter, and for taking only the highest interest of the Republic into account in his actions."

"Clearly, the government did not lose a single centavo in the transaction, thanks to their efforts," Bernardo said.

The P10 billion worth of PEACe bonds were issued by the government a decade ago as part of its borrowing plan. The entire issue was bought by RCBC on an auction, and could in the secondary market, with the public being transferred to Code-NGO.

TVI projects, Philex plan ...

from page B1

Tambunan del Norte has a lot more mining potential but it is possible the local government here that open pit mines cannot be established. The industry and the national government may have to reconsider the schedules for each area with the aspects of mining projects," Isaac Jr. said.

The ordinance in Zamboanga del Norte is how non-government organizations to make status saved for environmental issues.

The ordinance also prolongs the application process. Under the Mining Act of 1995, mining companies seeking government permit for mining projects must have consultations with the Sangguniang Panlalawigan or provincial assembly. Previously it is enough for the applicant to present proof of consultation from the assembly to satisfy national regulation. The ordinance in Zamboanga del Norte adds another step by requiring the mining company to get the panel of consultation approved by the provincial governor before submitting it to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, an attached agency of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Philippines' potential mining wealth was estimated to reach $840 billion or 10 times the country's annual gross domestic product, according to data from the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (CMP).

Mixed trading seen

from page B1

reliable and operational to come."

Lot of price-sensitive news made possible by the decision of the National Telecommunications Commission to approve the acquisition by PLDT of Globe-parent company Innovate Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., which now holds another 44 well as that of their rival, Globe Telecom Inc.—flighty.

Dindo L. Lacsi

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INVITATION TO BID

The Metro del Water District (MDWD) intends to use the proceeds of the MDWD Loan from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to finance the Procurement of Goods and Services as detailed in the Invitation to Bid.

Lot 1 — Supply and Delivery of Water Meters
Specifications
Minimum Starting Flow: 0.5lpm
Maximum Continuous Flow: 15lpm
Maximum Length: 1000mm
Maximum Weight: 10.5kgs
QTY: 5,000 units

Lot 2 — Supply and Delivery of Water Meters
Specifications
Minimum Starting Flow: 0.5lpm
Maximum Continuous Flow: 15lpm
Maximum Length: 1000mm
Maximum Weight: 10.5kgs
QTY: 5,000 units

Lot 3 — Supply and Delivery of Water Meters
Specifications
Minimum Starting Flow: 0.5lpm
Maximum Continuous Flow: 15lpm
Maximum Length: 1000mm
Maximum Weight: 10.5kgs
QTY: 5,000 units

The Invitation is open to all Filipino and foreign manufacturers, suppliers, contractors or consultants who are duly registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) and/or the Philippine Domestic Construction Board (PDCB) and/or the Philippine Overseas Construction Board (POCB) and/or the Philippine Consulting Services Industry Development Council (PCSIDC) and/or the Philippine Domestic Consulting Services Industry Development Council (PDCSIDC) and/or the Philippine Overseas Consulting Services Industry Development Council (POCSIDC) and/or the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and/or the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Board (POEAB) and/or the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Council (POEAC) and/or the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Commission (POEAC) and/or the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Corporation (POEAC) and/or the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration Corporation Board 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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT CARAGA
Butuan City

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Health – Caraga, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested manufacturers/ distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	PROCUREMENT OF CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS
Location	DOH-Center for Health Development – Caraga
Brief Description	LOT 1 – Php 3,000,000.00
Approved Budget for the Contract	
Contract Duration	
Delivery Period	120 Calendar Days

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be considered. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 8: Instructions Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 3, 2011
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 9, 2011
3. Opening of Bids	November 23, 2011 (10:00 AM only)
4. Bid Evaluation	November 28, 2011
5. Post-qualification	December 5, 2011
6. Notice of Award	Not later than Dec. 15, 2011

A set of Bidding Documents may also be downloaded from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PHILGEPS). Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (Php3,000.00) to the Department of Health – Center for Health Development – Caraga Cashier Section.

The Department of Health – Center for Health Development – Caraga reserves its rights to partially or totally reject any or all bid(s), or to indefinitely forbear for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) FLORENCIO B. TUJANO, DPA, Ph.D.
BAC Chairperson

(PS) - November 2, 2011

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF ATR KIMENG FINANCIAL CORPORATION

Kim Eng Holdings Limited, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Singapore (the "Bidder"), has filed a Tender Offer Report with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and the Philippine Stock Exchange ("PSE") on the 19th October, 2011, pursuant to Section 19 of the Philippine Securities Regulation Code, for the purpose of purchasing 576,987,701 issued and outstanding common shares of ATR Kimeng Financial Corporation (the "Subject Company") constituting all of the issued and outstanding common shares other than those already owned by the Bidder (the "Offer Shares") (such intention to purchase the Offer Shares, the "Tender Offer").

The Tender Offer shall commence at 9:00 a.m. on 21st October 2011 and will expire at 12:00 p.m. on 28 November 2011 ("Tender Offer Period") unless the Bidder extends the Tender Offer, in which event the end of the Tender Offer Period shall mean the latest time and date at which the Tender Offer as so extended, expires. The Bidder reserves the right to extend the Tender Offer Period with the approval of the SEC.

Stockholders who wish to offer all or a portion of their Offer Shares for sale to the Bidder may do so by submitting a duly accomplished this Application to Tender Offer Shares together with documentary requirements to ATR Kimeng Securities, Inc. (the "Tender Offer Agent") at 17th Floor Tower One & Exchange Plaza, Makati City, 1200, Philippines, telephone no. (632) 848 6888, in the absence of Ms. Sally O. dela Cruz/ Ms. Louna D. Tandoc/Ms. Jing S. Ibale-Santos.

Subject to the terms and conditions stated in the Terms of the Tender Offer, which is attached as Exhibit C to the SEC Form 19-1, and of the related Application to Tender Offer Shares, the Offer Shares that are tendered and not withdrawn within the Tender Offer Period shall be purchased by the Bidder at a price of PHP4.00 per share (the "Offer Price") in cash. Stockholders tendering Offer Shares without Interest Period's loss any required taxes or costs the Bidder or the Tender Offer Agent or any paying agent may be required to deduct or withhold, including payment of any stock transaction taxes and brokers and other fees in connection with the "crossing" of the Offer Shares on the PSE and which shall be for the account of the stockholder and shall be deducted from the purchase price payable to such stockholder.

"Bully" stockholders (i.e., stockholders who hold stock certificates) must submit to the Tender Offer Agent the following: (i) duly accomplished Application to Tender Offer Shares, (ii) original stock certificates of the Subject Company, duly endorsed, and (iii) such other documents that are applicable to the tendering stockholder as are listed in the Application to Tender Offer Shares.

The Tender Offer Agent reserves the right to require tendering stockholders to present additional documents for purposes of determining the validity, eligibility and acceptability of the shares being tendered by such stockholders.

"Scripless" stockholders (i.e., stockholders whose Offer Shares are held by brokers under their respective Philippine Depository and Trust Corporation ("PDTC") accounts) who wish to accept the Tender Offer, must instruct their brokers or custodian (the "PSE Broker") to electronically transfer their Offer Shares to the Tender Offer Agent.

Acceptance of the Application to Tender Shares is subject to the Terms of the Tender Offer, which is attached as Exhibit C to SEC Form 19-1. The Bidder, through the Tender Offer Agent, at its sole discretion, shall have the absolute right to reject any and all application to Tender Offer Shares. The Bidder also reserves the absolute right to waive any defect or irregularity in the tender of any Offer Shares or any particular stockholder without defects or irregularities waived in the case of any other stockholder. No tender of Offer Shares will be deemed to have been validly made until all defects and irregularities relating thereto have been cured or waived. Tendering stockholders of Offer Shares whose Application to Tender Offer Shares have been rejected, in whole or in part, shall be notified of such fact by the Tender Offer Agent and the said Application and other documents submitted will be returned as soon as possible, but in any event before the end of the Tender Offer Period.

The Offer Shares tendered and accepted are expected to be crossed at the PSE on 8 December 2011, subject to the approval by the PSE and subject further to any extension of the Tender Offer Period with the prior approval of the SEC. The settlement date shall be at least three days after the crossing of the Offer Shares on the PSE.

Tendering stockholders shall have the right to withdraw any Offer Shares at any time until the end of the Tender Offer Period. In addition, if tendered Offer Shares are not accepted by the Bidder, through the Tender Offer Agent, after the expiration of sixty (60) business days from the commencement of the Tender Offer Period, tendering stockholders may withdraw their Offer Shares. The withdrawing stockholder must comply with the procedure and requirements for withdrawal of the Offer Shares stated in the Terms of the Tender Offer attached as Exhibit C to the SEC Form 19-1. Any Offer Shares validly withdrawn will thereafter be deemed not to have been validly tendered for purposes of the Tender Offer. Withdrawals may be re-tendered at any time prior to the end of the Tender Offer Period by following the procedures described in the Terms of the Tender Offer.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (Singapore) has confirmed that the Bidder has sufficient resources to satisfy full acceptance of the tendered Offer Shares.

Stockholders are advised to read the Application to Tender Offer Shares, the Terms of the Tender Offer and the SEC Form 19-1 filed by the Bidder with the SEC. Copies of the SEC Form 19-1 shall be mailed by the Tender Offer Agent to the stockholders at their registered addresses, and are also available at the offices of the Tender Offer Agent. For queries, please call the Tender Offer Agent at the contact details indicated above.

(PS) - October 21, 26 & November 02, 2011

ATTENTION:
CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS
CLASSIFIEDS
INVITATION TO BID, DEPARTMENT ORDERS and BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, advertise in the Inquirer National Classifieds.

1ST UTILIZATION CONFERENCE FOR BRGY. HAMATID AT ALEGRI RESORT 2011

Brgy. Hamatid officials hold their 1st Utilization Conference/ Presentation of State of Barangay Governance Report (SOBG)- Barangay Performance Management System and Financial Report of CY 2010 at Alegri Resort in Cabigan Lagoon on Oct. 25. Shown from left are Councilor Emerson Lizares, Comm. for Virginia Pedit, Councilor (Vice Pres.) Sol Antiniano, Barangay Captain Ernesto G. Hinpisan, Rodin Gonzales III of The Dos Algre Para Foundation, Councilor Gabriel Barbing, Councilor Wilfredo Montemar. For inquiries, regarding facility rental for your teambuilding / retreat/ seminars / events (web@pleasure.ph, (63) 944-4361 or (049) 563-2317 / (047) 223-5838 please look for Mrs. Cel Gonzales. Kindly visit our website at www.algeriresort.com.ph

PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY
Public Estate Authority

INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT, PREQUALIFY AND BID FOR THE DISPOSITION OF PRA PROPERTIES

The PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA), DISPOSITION AUTHORITY, invites interested parties to participate and submit bid for sale of the following properties on an "as is, where is" basis, on minimum requirements:

LOCATION	PROPERTIES	LOTS	AREA (in sq.m.)	PRESCRIBED PRICE
MAY-UNA, PASAY CITY	ORP 1-A, Subdivision 2	2	10,000	Duly evaluated	Lease and development
	ORP 1-A, Subdivision 3	2	10,000		

2. Any Filipino citizen, private firm and
Any corporation, cooperative, association, partnership or joint venture organized in accordance with Philippine laws and which has complied with the requirements established by PRA for the bidding.

Foreign corporations who are eligible to bid, however, directly, offered, and shareholders of private corporations can acquire residential lots only if the public domain land is acquired from 12.5 hectares and commercial lots only public lands using land Reserve Republic Act 7279.

3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the forms, conditions and the documents from the Business Development and Marketing Group from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday, starting November 7, 2011 up to November 25, 2011 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) per set of bidding documents at the address stated below:

MANUEL A. PANGILINAN, JR.
Chairman
PRA Asset Disposal Bids and Awards Committee (PRA-BAC)
Philippine Reclamation Authority
7th Floor, Lopez Building
Pasay City, Philippines 1300

Attended by the Secretariat of the Committee at the telephone number indicated in parenthesis.

4. The PRA-BAC shall open the bids on November 29, 2011 at the PRA Conference Room which shall be open each to the interested parties who purchased the bid documents.

5. The negotiated sale/qualification documents and any subsequent clarifications shall form part of the bid. Failure to submit any of the requirements may result in the disqualification of the bid. The PRA-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, accept the offer most advantageous to the PRA, cancel the bidding process at any time prior to the award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or any obligation to inform the affected bidder of the ground for such action.

6. PRA reserves the right to reject any application, to waive any informality or defect in any application received, and to accept the application which, in its judgment is in the best interest of the PRA.

7. Terms of bidding or not to award the contract or project.

a. Terms of payment of selected qualified PRA disposition property shall be in cash or manager's check payable to the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) or its duly authorized collecting agent. Payment through credit cards, debit cards, installment or credit terms or financing facility is expressly prohibited.

b. Any PRA/BAC Member shall not be allowed to participate in the aforesaid bidding proceedings; and

c. Any non-participation and reasonable ground, the award of the contract will not be allowed to be made to the successful purchaser.

Interested parties may obtain further information on the properties for sale at www.pea.gov.ph or may call the Manila Bay Business Center at (632) 551-5555 loc. 2 or 3 or Mr. Ramon V. Ang

BUSINESS

Under PH investment plan, Neda expects ₱4.2T

Gov't debt servicing down 2% in Sept.

Russel W Dacoings

THE GOVERNMENT spent P697.2 billion to the nine months to September to pay its debt. The amount was 2 percent lower than the P667.8 billion settled in the same period last year, according to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The slight decrease in debt servicing during the period was attributed to Malacañang could not to focus more on principal payments than interest payments.

From January to September, the government settled a total of P597.1 billion in principal loans, including P273.8 billion in domestic debt and P301.1 billion incurred from abroad.

Total principal payment to the first nine months was 5 percent higher than the P568.7 billion posted in the same period last year.

Also, the government paid a total of P222.4 billion in interest, covering P131 billion of domestic debt and P91.4 billion in foreign borrowings.

Total interest payment during the period was 9 percent lower than the P244.5 billion recorded in the same period of 2010.

In September alone, the government paid a total of P72.4 billion, including P55.9 billion in domestic debt and P16.5 billion in foreign obligations.

The month's total was 18 percent lower than the P87.7 billion settled in the same month last year.

Budget Secretary Florencio B. Abad said Malacañang decided to spend less for interest payments due to the recent upgrade in credit rating accorded by international debt watchers to the Philippines in the past year.

Last June, Fitch Ratings raised the country's long-term foreign currency debt rating to a notch below investment grade, citing "progress on fiscal consolidation against a track record of macro stability, broadly favorable economic prospects and strengthening external finances."

Latest data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the stock of outstanding debt eased to P4.75 billion as of July decreasing by about P66 billion from the June level mainly due to redemption pens and the depreciation of domestic securities.

With the latest population estimate at 93.8 million, the amount of total outstanding debt would mean that each citizen would have a share of P49,640.

Gov't identifies projects to be funded

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE PHILIPPINES' investment program over the medium-term is now expected to reach P4.2 trillion—more than double the amount reported under a similar program drawn up by the previous administration.

National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) deputy director general Rolando G. Tungpalan said yesterday that the P4.2 trillion worth of proposed projects under the final draft of the Philippine Investment Plan (PIP) for 2011-2016 could still go up with the completion of ongoing feasibility studies for some of the projects.

Of the estimated P4.2 trillion in proposed projects, the government will need "roughly P1.7 trillion" in resources for public investments, he said.

According to Ric Tungpalan, Neda has already determined which projects under the present PIP will actually need government allocations and the ones that simply require credit lines or government guarantees.

This is to avoid overstating the financing need for the PIP, the official explained.

"We said that on funding projects are not really public investments. Government's only public investments," Tungpalan said.

"On-lending" refers to private companies borrowing from banks to be able to participate in a government project.

Tungpalan said that submissions of government agencies for the 2011-2016 PIP were marked in terms of how "responsive" these proposed projects are to Aquino administration's 10-point agenda for 2011-2016.

The evaluation determined which of the priority programs and projects would be suitable for public-private partnerships, foreign assistance, credit lines to be availed of by the private sector, and so on, Tungpalan said.

The PIP sets priority projects to be implemented by the government, government-owned and -controlled corporations, state financial institutions and other offices until 2016.

As always, the PIP concentrates how the goals defined under the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) will be achieved.

The PDP goals include sound economic growth of 7 to 8 percent and the reduction of poverty.

"For example, if food self-sufficiency is a target by 2016 or beyond, how many hectares of irrigation [are needed]? What are the post-harvest facilities? That's the kind of processing that we want to do," Tungpalan said in an earlier interview.

In June 2011, Economic Planning Secretary Cayetano W. Paderanga Jr., who is also Neda director general, said in a statement that in formulating the PIP, "the programs and projects should contribute to the sectoral goals, outcomes and outputs spelled out in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016."

Padernaga said the guidelines for the PIP include the alignment of outcomes, indicators and targets under the following principle areas: Anti-corruption, transparent, accountable and participatory governance; Sustainable and inclusive and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable; rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth; just and lasting peace and the rule of law; and, integrity of the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Government agencies must also determine the annual financing requirements for these projects over the medium term, Padernaga said.

After its completion, the PIP will be regularly updated together with the midterm review of the PDP.

In 2007, then President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Neda approved P10.4 trillion worth of projects under her Medium Term Public Investment Plan.

Oil import bill up 25% in H1

By Amy R. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S oil import bill rose to $6.34 billion in the first half of the year due to a spike in global prices. The import bill was up almost 25 percent from the $5.09 billion reported in the same period last year.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the import cost of crude oil rose 41.8 percent to $3.76 billion, at an average CIF cost of $108.9 a barrel, while the cost of finished petroleum products also rose by 5.9 percent to $2.58 billion at an average CIF cost of $113.665 a barrel.

However, import volumes for crude oil and finished petroleum products combined dipped slightly by 87,079 million barrels during the period, from a year-ago level of 62.1 million barrels.

According to the DOE, the 23-percent decline in the volume of finished petroleum products imported in the first six months of the year was due to an increase in local refinery production output during the period. The volume of crude oil imported meanwhile rose 21.4 percent to 44.9 million barrels.

As of end-June 2011, actual crude and petroleum products inventory stood at 35.1 million barrels, equivalent to 52 days worth of supply. Unsquired with the same period last year, however, this was lower by 4.4 percent from the recorded stockpile of 36.8 million barrels.

During the first half, the DOE continued to enforce the Minimum Inventory Requirement wherein all oil companies, except refiners operating in the country and bulk suppliers, are required to maintain a minimum inventory equivalent to 15 days supply of petroleum products.

Inventory of liquefied petroleum gas companies was maintained at seven days supply while the refiners will need to keep a minimum inventory of 30 days supply equivalent, given the circumstances on supply due to lingering concerns over the Middle East and North Africa.

The country's total demand of petroleum products for the first half of the year registered an increase of 4.2 percent, translating to an average daily requirement of 300,360 barrels.

Also, the country's total petroleum import receipts rose by 80 percent from $940.7 million last year to $1.823billion, as the total volume rose by 65 percent to 7.9 million barrels as of end-June this year from 4.8 million barrels a year ago.

The total import was composed of consumer (32 percent), fuel oil (18.7 percent), naphtha (12 percent), propylene (8.1 percent), mixed xylene (5.6 percent), toluene (3.3 percent), others/nec (3.1 percent), diesel oil (2.4 percent), benzene (2.0 percent), kerosene (0.6 percent) and GPC (0.3 percent), respectively.

Major oil players accounted to 68 percent of the total import rate while the consignment imports of Shell Philippines Exploration B. V. (SPEX) accounted for the remaining 32 percent. A total of 1.4 million barrels of crude oil Offshore Light was exported to various countries during the period—a decrease of 28.4 percent from last year's 1.7 million barrels.

This brought net oil imports—or crude and petroleum product imports minus exports—to $5.32 billion in 2011, up by 18.9 percent from the $4.48 billion posted a year ago, DOE data showed.

adobo CEO Masterclass launches with Roger Neill on Brand Renovation

adobo magazine, the country's premier publication for advertising and brand communications, launches its CEO Masterclass series with a full session on Brand Renovation presented by London-based change and innovation expert Roger Neill. The masterclass will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2011, from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the exclusive Tower Club in Makati City.

For most companies, the vast majority of innovation is in reality renovation. Brand Renovation is a subtle art of considerable complexity, which few companies seem to have considered. In this interactive session, Roger Neill, managing partner of the consultancy Per Diem and director of the Centre for Creativity, City University London, will cover a range of topics geared towards top level executives, including case studies from sectors such as automotive and transport, politics and entertainment, to FMCG and advertising.

The adobo CEO Masterclass packs three hours with topics such as leveraging current brand assets, creating genuine organic growth, thinking like a challenger, surfacing previously hidden insights, staying in vogue in a fickle world, and escaping from the low-price/commodity trap.

The half-day of insights and creative ideas will be followed by a carefully prepared menu with wine pairings expertly selected by renowned Swiss Chef Chris Locher.

Neill has had a stellar career in advertising, arts and culture, and the academe. He is a leading authority on creativity, innovation, leadership, change and communication based in the UK. Neill conducts masterclasses and workshops all over the world working with a range of organizations including British Airways, Coca-Cola, Deloitte, Diageo, Electrolux, The International Olympic Committee, Louis Vuitton, the National Health Service, Nestlé, Saatchi & Saatchi, Oxford University and Unilever.

Looking to renovate your brand or to bring innovation and thought leadership into your business?

Reserve your place for the adobo CEO Masterclass today. Contact Angel Guerrero at angel.guerrero@adobo-magazine.com/09209005608, or Janelle Siquiera at janelle.siquiera@adobo-magazine.com/09178070607. Discounts are available for team reservations. For more details, please visit adobomagazine.com/masterclass or call the adobo office at (02) 843-0218.

MOTORING

Editor Joey N. Arcano

Colorado springs back

Chevrolet joining pickup brawl with brawny Colorado next year

The 2012 Chevrolet Colorado pickup at the Pin Chalee Resort, Chiang Rai.

CHEVROLET is set to reassert its nearly 100 years of history having pre-launching the all-new Colorado.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN IT comes to pickup trucks, Chevrolet is best known for its full-size Silverado 1500 that has consistently earned the Recommended rating of Consumer Reports in the last few years. Just as consistently the Colorado, Chevrolet's midsize 5-cylinder pickup in the United States, was cribbed by Consumer Reports as being surpassed in just about every category by the competition. It didn't help any that in Thailand, the world's biggest market for midsize pickups, the Colorado was using the same engine and platform as the Isuzu D-Max.

But Chevrolet, which is celebrating its centennial this year, will reassert its nearly 100 years of trucking heritage by launching an all-new Colorado. Concept versions of the 2012 Colorado were displayed in various press shows around the world this year, including the Bangkok Motor Show in March. It was launched first in Thailand last month and is slated to debut in the Asia-Pacific region, including the Philippines some February 2012 (it will be sold as a Holden in Australia) followed by the Middle East and South America.

Chevrolet sport sequiturs to develop the 2012 Colorado. The total global program cost reached US$1 billion, including a $300 million investment to prepare General Motors Thailand's Rayong facility for Colorado production. Of the half a billion dollars, $200 million went to the construction of a new, state-of-the-art, diesel powertrain plant adjacent to GM's vehicle manufacturing plant in Rayong—the first diesel engine plant in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Diesel engines and market shares from today's multiple regional leaders. GM Thailand/ASEAN and Chevrolet Asia Thailand marked 30 motoring journalists from the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia to drive the new pickup over 400 kilometers of steep, winding mountain roads, including an off-road section, to round Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. (These journeys were spaced from the South.)

400 kilometers

To prove that the 2012 Colorado has what it takes to grab best-in-class honors and market shares from today's multiple regional leaders, GM Thailand/ASEAN and Chevrolet Asia Thailand marked 30 motoring journalists from the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia to drive the new pickup over 400 kilometers of steep, winding mountain roads, including an off-road section, to round Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. (These journeys were spaced from the South.)

The Southeast Asian media were among the first in the world to extensively test the Colorado, which for the Philippine motorbound was totally new since the Colorado line never been sold here. Our fleet from had repeatedly driven on the open roads, narrow village roads and winding mountain roads of Northern Thailand to chart a challenging route that would test the merits of their new truck. 14 units of which were waiting outside the Chiang Rai Airport upon our arrival there from Bangkok's International Airport.

Tuason Racing welcomes new crop of talents

By Cinchi L. Balce

WEST WEEK, the Batangas Racing Circuit will once again play host to 12 drivers who aspire to be included on the list of Tuason Racing School rides' success.

Dubbed as the TRS Cup powered by the Ford Fiesta, the 12 included Ben Andes, Dany Andes, Vivian Cervantes, Ding Dilosa, Stefan Wolf, Rieli Escalante, Instrumentate Christ Guinaugo, Davaoque City Councilor Bonz Bonolo, Bodo Bringas, as well as foreign Superbikers Chin Kwan Kiang, Daniel Chacko from Singapore and Bhaskarudin Ramchandran from India.

A party was recently held at The Plaza at the Newport Mall inside the Resorts World Manila to welcome the 12.

Grassroots program

The TRS Cup powered by the Ford Fiesta continues the annual grassroots circuit car program developed by TRS to provide a cost effective entry point into circuit car racing.

Since 2003, TRS has been assembling a one-make circuit racer that started with the TRS-Ford Lynx Cup. This was later followed by the TRS-Ford Fiesta Cup series that ran from 2008 to 2010.

This year's edition of the TRS Cup will also introduce the Racing Team Owners (RTO) program in which those who intend to own and manage a racing car or team may avail TRS' all-in package.

1.4-liter Ford Fiesta

For just under P1 million, the package will entitle interested parties, a brand new unused 1.4-liter Ford Fiesta sedan specially equipped with all the racing modifications required for safety plus the basic training tool. And consumables for those legs.

"Car racing is another sport that could be as popular as boxing and football here in the Philippines. I believe that racing would be the next sport that Filipinos will be well-known for and excel in. Fil-

FORD FIVE: Marketing Exec Olivia (left) and renowned chef Stephen Escalante welcome Antonette's home

FROM left, Jeanne Lo Tuason, Brian Ramos, Chris Tio, JP Tuason, Tim Yap and Jeremy Marquez

ipinos are naturally good drivers and have the innate skills to be fast. A little honing and polishing, and a lot of Filipinos could become globally competitive," said JP Tuason, founder and president of TRS.

In fact, this annual program of the TRS has become proud refuge for many aspiring car racers who were given the chance to hone their skill before joining the a national series.

Attention

The program even got the attention of drivers from other countries and saw it as their training ground before racing their skills.

The TRS Cup powered by the Ford Fiesta is sponsored control, Bridgestone, Standard Insurance, Coke Zero, Rimfab, Fuel Alabang, Smart Inc, and Smart Employee.

Tuason said he is grateful for the sponsors who subscribed to some of the cost to make the program an encouraging environment for the drivers participate.

Largest touring

The TRS Cup is the largest touring and only professional racing school in the country.

Established in 1999 by brothers and multi-awarded car drivers, JP and Mike Tuason (sons of the late racing legend, Arthur Tuason) and supported by their sister Jeanne and fiancée, the TRS has successfully organized the racing careers of start-ups for various racing disciplines such as karting, circuit car and formula cars.

The school also provides an accessible entry point to racing classic and classic that give individuals a taste of racing without the excessive cost traditionally associated with this type of sport.

After graduation, the racer can join the cars under series or join the TRS Racing Team.

"TRS' mission is to make the Philippines the racing hub for the region, and to make Filipino racers globally competitive," said Tuason.

THE TRS Cup powered by the Ford Fiesta parks at Resorts World Manila.

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Colorado springs...

HIGH-TECH features abound in the comfy, spacious, refined cabin

Mr. discovered that the new Colorado is equipped with either a 2.5-liter or 2.8-liter four-cylinder, in-order Duramax diesel engine with common rail direct injection (CRDI) system and Variable Geometry Turbo manufactured by GM's newly invested powertrain plant in Rayong, Thailand. The 2.8L engine packs 180 hp/3,800 rpm and 470 Nm/2,000 rpm when mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission. The new torquier of 2.8 L variant with 5-speed manual transmission is rated at 440 Nm/2,800 rpm. The 2.5L version, which comes with a 6-speed MT only produces 150 hp/3,600 rpm and 330 Nm/2,000 rpm peak torque.

Duramax

These engines from Chevrolet's all-new family of four-cylinder turbo diesel engines based on Chevrolet's 6.6-liter, V8 Duramax that is available only in the United States. They are designed with the same core engine as their bigger U.S. brothers in terms of power, torque output, fuel efficiency and durability aside from meeting EURO 4 emission standards.

Delivering high torque at low rpms, the Colorado twin 2.8-liter—effectively with Duramax—allows towing when hopping the 2.8L AT on the first day and with Chevrolet Philippines executive Jerod Littlefield in the 2.8L MT on the second day—and hold the boats and stuff in tow—I encountered no clutch fade issues and occasional screeching of the tow tires when cornering. At, though the 2.8L AT hopping and I took turns driving on the first day was not a 4WD, it successfully traversed the rough off-road terrains under Rizal's rugged countryside.

What pleased me most, the only female journalist in the MEMO group, was the exceptional ride quality of the Colorado. Accustomed to final become in the front, I, Sterling/Isuzu MU-7 all the pickup trucks I have tested in the past. The Colorado's riding comfort and low levels of NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) over all kinds of terrain can be found. In the luxury quality of its chassis that has been further strengthened by eight cross members in its step-ladder frame. Per its stiffer suspension consisting of a double wishbone with coil springs and stabilizer bar up front and semi-elliptical leaf springs at the rear.

Gear shift

Remember that not Filipinos are accustomed to driving on the left side of the road the way it's done in Thailand. Fortunately, the 6-speed MT of the 2.8L Colorado shifts smoothly even for drivers who have to focus more intensely when shifting gears with their left hand. The facilitated 6-speed AT lets us automatic gear selector via a toggle switch on the shift knob while the 4WD system equipped with a new 2-speed electronically activated part-time transfer case.

The new Colorado's revel in the handling department, providing driving feel, nimble maneuverability and quick response. Both with solid ground-hugged attitude. The 2.8-L Colorado is linked with a rather comfortable ride quality over Tractor Control System, Electronic Stability Control, Hydraulic Brake Assist, Grooming Brake Control and Hydraulic Brake Push Assist aside from the front and rear airbags. On the 2.8 MT 4X2 variant with, side protection impact beams and collapsible steering column... but no Limited Slip Differential.

The spacious cabin, with a "dual cockpit" front console and epoxy motive theme similar to the Ford Fiesta is accented control, Bridgestone, Standard Insurance, Coke Zero, Rimfab, Fuel Alabang, Smart Inc, and Smart Employee.

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Optimizers

The Colorado's exterior design, reflected in the bold styling—as for pickups including projector-style chromium headlamps, flared wheel arches, a high shoulder line plus a protective metal running-panel integrated into the bottom of the front bumper. The use of chrome, lowgloss and satin-finished accents on the tailgate, door handles, rear fender and electric side mirrors give the Colorado a premium feel while large vented LED taillights at the rear contributes to the bold, rugged, tough look.

Whatever its configuration—whether a basic 2-door work truck or a premium 4X2 crew cab—the 2011 Colorado offers a common frame and body structure, more payload and towing capacity (3,000 kg), high-performing power system and outstanding refinement. It's a "Haul anything, go anywhere" pickup and can be a workhorse, a family hauler or a lifestyle vehicle for the high-end premium buyer. How much will it cost in Manila?

Find out in February.

MITSUBISHI ASX GLS SE 4X4 CVT

Designed for long leisurely drives (and maybe the women)

By Bochi Santos

THE ASX SUITS late-mid-women drive-midlook for a car.

I FIRST drove the ASX when it was launched not on land, in the Clark international speedway. Despite prodigious body roll, the chassis was impressively stable and even rather spunky on an track and finding confidence into the dirt trap, it never once felt like it was going to tip over all. Impressive stuff indeed from the small, Lancer-based crossover SUV.

The ASX also shares the Lancer's basic front MacPherson strut suspension and rear coil and the non-pressurized 4B11 2.0 litre 4-cylinder engine that delivers 146 ps and 197 newton-metres of torque. It seems rather bi-laden in terms of performance especially when mated to the added burden of its car equivalent automatic CVT and a CVT transmission that's better than I am on a Sunday morning.

Interestingly, while the ASX is slightly smaller than its perceived competitors (the Honda CR-V, the Toyota RAV4, the Hyundai Tucson and Kia Sportage), it is almost as lonely in the other SUVs and a possibly built completely in Japan, explaining partly it's huge Ph 1.35 million price tag which is constantly and artificially driving you at the moment. Silverdale actually views the kia-level as its direct competitor in terms of size, although now that Kia has discontinued its 2.0 load and the 1.6L selling brutishly the ASX finds itself needing to woo two very different markets, as the bigger Outlander should be the cross-over SUV competing head on with the Sorento, Honda's CR-V and the Toyota RAV4. Again we're missing the Outlander due to the very high Euro-Emirates Peso burn rate.

In stop and go traffic, the ASX GLS SE is not for the impatient person. The CVT just takes forever to deliver any decent acceleration, even me working with a big of bathtub would overtake the ASX on EDSA.

Thankfully, out on the open highway things improve significantly. The ASX's long-stanked and clever-serving CVT transmission is just awash getting into its own groove and quickly delivers a mind-boggling 12/14 km/litre fuel consumption even when laden with boy scouts, Beta guys and whole travelling rigid under the legal limit, overtaking distance cars quickly and reaching point 110 km/h for a few seconds, first right lock down to Tandang.

It is for this reason that I have nowhere, in my mind, labeled the ASX as a girl's car. Not because it is girly, but because it suits how most women drive, and look for in a car.

Copious amounts of cargo space for shopping and groceries? Check. Raised seating position allowing for a better, more commanding view on the road thanks to height adjustable seats? Check. Sleek, modern design that is non-aggressive but handsome nonetheless? Check. A painless, smooth and fuel efficient powertrain combination suits an equally smooth suspension suited to handle our poorly tarmacked roads and then won't upset a girl's delicate bits? Check.

The ASX matches for a good long-distance tourer thanks to the highly efficient CVT-engine combo, has arguably good ride that should cover most sudden Radiohead. Any thing more than the ASX won't does mean you probably need to stay where you are, regardless of what car you decide and a very light steering wheel, brake and throttle pedal means it is a painless, every-day car especially while just sitting in traffic. And avoid the drop-a-pin traffic. During the time I had it, I regularly took it to my project site in Mandaluyo, passing through C5, MIA and parts of Ermita/Malate and Daang Hayop and the ASX felt Definitely, standing cruising at it's own test pace with Body Armor Dress no. 19708 playing through the 6x9 inch rear speaker system.

It has some nice bells too: GPS/SATNAV combined with a multi-media system and a CD/DVD player, Bluetooth integration for your mobile phone (up to 5 mobile phones) and the option to install a rear-view camera from the dealer or any aftermarket specialty electronics shop.

Interestingly, the front fenders are made from space-age plastics to help reduce weight over the pointy end and subsequently some underdrive as well as the powers.

The top-model also comes with standard xenon headlights and a START/STOP keyless engine button and headlight-washers, handy in inclement weather.

The ASX is perfect for guys/families with a single baby, or for people who are not exactly car guys but enjoy a good long leisurely drive. It doesn't entice you to drive fast, or at least drive sportily even with the flappy paddles to change gears manually (when the wheel that it is most comfortable to steer for long periods of time, to be more plain. If you can live with the slow-moving CVT transmission from idle to quick bursts of acceleration, and the high price tag, I doubt you can find anything better to spend your money on.

As a sig: Join the AWD capability and be with the front-wheel drive GLS. It's even better off the line, has the potential to consume even less fuel, and has just as much space, poise and comfort for less.

Singapore example

SKID MARKS
Rich Ki Santos

LAST WEEK I found myself in Kuala Lumpur and the rest of Selangor Province in Malaysia for the Malaysian Motor Show. I was another Star Motor Thousands of Bucoys tragically passed away doing what he loved most: going flat out on two wheels. May his soul and his prince at his joined our Cousine and is probably now giving flat-out commentary in the pearly gates much to the chagrin of fellow, and soon before company. Kuala Lumpur took the best approach to keep their city vibrant, progressive, clean and orderly: by building new cities outside of the old city center to help decongest and deconcentrate government and society.

But unfortunately, we know our government is slow, really slow with their grand master-plan. I proposed last week about the local government instead making a similar move to help decongest the Metro by providing and retrofitting the private sector to build outside of Metro Manila, and provide some form of benefits to buyers, investors and investors to move there, would probably take 10 generations. Now, some congress to any plan, and perhaps another 10 generations for the government to implement such a plan. If it ever did push through, what with our red tape and bureaucracy.

The thing this week's column is about is the concept that the annual Subaru Impreza Challenge, tied with the competition being held for the very heart of ribs last Sunday. Basically, Singapore's top fashion, retail, F&B, entertainment and business districts. I have had a lot of choice comments about.

First is cleanliness. By any estimate, there is a trash can every 20 meters or so along Orchard Road or the city heart, forming an abundance of trash cans one can dream of finding in Quezon City. Even more impressive is the fact that there is no trash on the ground, and the streets are spotless. Even the sidewalks are spotless, and there is no gum stuck on the sidewalks.

Second is jaywalking. While there are jaywalkers in Singapore, even on fashionable Orchard Road, there is very little. In fact, you will very rarely see them as jaywalkers because the very few erratic ones simply escape unscathed. Singapore's traffic police, counting on their vast army of motor-bikers, the past, government-erected railings, dividers and barriers to prevent pedestrians from crossing the road. But these barriers and dividers were made of steel, iron or any other form of metal. After a few weeks, the residents in these areas regularly pay-walk just per their lives at risk/would have roadkilled, damaged, destroyed, or even steal these barriers and dividers. I say government should create an all-concrete one-way thick 1.5-2.75 meters high with a wide base at the bottom, then curved back out at the top to prevent people from getting up and climbing over them. In jaywalk, again it's convenience if it's built for people to climb up and over these barriers, they won't really jaywalking and probably just go to a proper pedestrian crossing lane/overpass.

Third is to have proper sidewalks. Orchard Road has super wide sidewalks, wider than the road pavement highways in our country. If the government wanted to create a truly livable city it needs to create a proper travelling path for pedestrians. Unbelievable pedestrians, cars and everything else in between had to compete for space on our narrow roads.

There is a connection with chokeholders, jaywalking and the sidewalk. If the sidewalks were wide and kept clean, people would not bother to walk on the road but keep to the sidewalks. It would be a pleasant place to walk. Look at Port Boulevard Global City, wide sidewalks, very clean and well-maintained. Sidewalks in many people top three everyday. I love walking around parts of Ortigas Center and Salcedo and Legaspi Villages, and also walking leisurely during my off-hours outside of the Metro. Boracay Island, the five years of Cebu City. I've been to and Baguio. Walking is the most basic form of mobility and freedom and much as I love cars, being able to move about holding nothing is liberating. Plus it's good for my overfed rump as well. Imagine walking about on a city free of debris, garbage and worse of all, smoky smelly stuff (urban, garbage and everything else that smacks our noses and our sensibilities), wouldn't that be nice? The heat is actually bearable. Here in Singapore, where temperatures can soar in the 40's regularly, it's bearable because walking feels good, it's clean and yes, refreshing to be able to cycle safely on your own two feet for your personal.

I do think that a rail system on major thoroughfares would not work, effective as it still for in-air, congesting traffic. That would mark another revolution.

Mitsubishi 'electrifies' Estonia with iMievs

By Charles E. Bolan

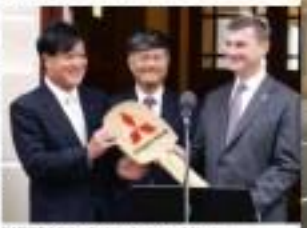
ESTONIA MAY not ring a million-bell for all of us here living in the Philippines. But this early as might as well learn more about this farthest Soviet state located in the Gulf of Finland since it may hold the key to changing the way we move around.

Last March, the Estonian government concluded a deal with Mitsubishi Motors Corp. to provide the country 507 units of the Mitsubishi Innovative Electric Vehicle or the i-MiEV.

This is the largest order of i-MiEVs any-where in the world.

Delivery of the first 50 units was completed last Dec. 21 with no less than Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip welcoming MMC president Osamu Masuoka and MMC SVP Akitoshi Ogawa.

The MMC plans to complete shipment of the entire order to Estonia by the end of this year.



PM SUMO (left) handing over the ceremonial key to Estonian Prime Minister Ansip, with Ogawa looking on

THE ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT [illegible] some of them produced [illegible]

Revolutionary alternative

The i-MiEV is an all-electric vehicle that fits four passengers. It can go as fast as 130 kph and run up to 155 km on a single charge. What makes this car a revolutionary alternative to traditional vehicle is it has no tailpipe emissions.

The car runs on a compact, high-output electric motor that is powered by a large capacity lithium-ion battery system that can be recharged (by plugging it into a power point at home) in around seven hours.

The Estonian government plans to use these i-MiEVs in public facilities as part of the country's policy to popularize electric vehicles throughout the country, including the Government Scheme under the Kyoto Protocol.

The CEA refers to specific kinds of international emissions trade conducted under the Kyoto Protocol. Under the CEA, emissions are traded on the condition that revenues generated from transfers of Assigned Amount Units should be used for curbing greenhouse gas emissions or carrying out other environmental measures.

Public facilities

The Estonian government plans to use the i-MiEVs as official transport of its several public facilities (particularly social welfare offices) as part of its policy to popularize electric vehicles nationwide, hoping to reduce CO2 emissions in the country.

In addition, the Estonian government has already introduced subsidies for EV purchases and plans to set up charging infrastructure.

For its part, MMC will work to popularize electric vehicles in Estonia by providing technical support to the Estonian government in promoting CO2 reduction and planning to start sales of the i-MiEV to the public in Estonia this month.

MMC is currently selling the i-MiEV in many countries and regions all over the world including Republic of Monaco, Ireland, Hong Kong, Australia and will start sales of the i-MiEV in the United States and Canada within the year.

MMC is also coordinating with other states including the Principality of Monaco, Ireland, Denmark, Singapore, and Thailand, countries which are also planning to popularize electric vehicles.

Elan and mantra of Elantra

By Jason E. Zag

IN THE past ten years, Hyundai has found great success in the Philippines. It earned-an-efficiently even, through gray-market imports, with the Mitsubishi-based Stamx van. Then their SUVs started getting better, too; enter the Tucson and the Santa Fe. Now the Korean company is focusing its considerable acumen on the sedan market. The Sonata and Accent have been a pair of surprise-and-delight cars, coaching in great Japanese rivals seemingly with their own points drivers.

Hyundai's latest major model, launched at this year's Manila International Auto Show, is aimed at the hottest heart of the passenger car market. The all-new Elantra, follows the styling cues of the larger Sonata and smaller Accent. Sensually curved (some styling has its limits, but Hyundai seems to have found a way to make it work on an entire lineup of vehicles. The "fluidic sculpture" template has not looked better than on the Elantra. The proportions look exactly right, from the size of the chunky gallery to the tilt of the greenhouse. Sure, bigger wheels can make it look better perhaps that is a job best left for the aftermarket.

THE ELANTRA promises excitement and a high-tech driving experience with its dynamic exterior.

When styling is king, the usually reason some companies in the business is the Elantra's cues. It means a little more ducking than usual. The seats are not at the tall hip height that is currently the norm, and the sharply-sloping door openings require a small bow as you enter, lest you crack your head.

Once inside, space is sufficient even for tall passengers. The steering wheel is adjustable for both reach and rake, making the ideal driving position easier to set. The secondary controls are split among an upper cluster by the radio and a middle group for the air-conditioning. The USB and auxiliary are hidden behind a hinged cover just above the gearshift. The system allows access to iPod controls using the audio head unit and steering-wheel buttons. Instrument lighting is in the cobalt blue that is used in all Hyundai vehicles.

THE STEERING wheel is adjustable for both reach and rake, making the ideal driving position easier to set.

Hyundai has not hesitated to install its latest drivetrains in its cars. In this case, it's the 1.8-liter gasoline inline-four mated to a six-speed automatic gearbox. The engine is whisper quiet during idle and mild acceleration. Even at full blast, it is still barely audible. The six-speed shifts unobtrusively in all, with smooth kickdowns. The manual-override mode seem largely unused during our drive, as the gearbox was capable of staying in the appropriate gear without human intervention. With 150 hp and 178 Nm at 4850 rpm, the engine feels adequate. It's content to deliver the goods without announcing it. We recorded 8.7 km/liter in mostly-city driving.

The car rides on 16-inch wheels and is comfortably compliant over pock-marked roads and highway joints. The handling won't have any effect on your heart rate. The front MacPherson strut rear torsion beam setup strikes readers nice harmony. The steering does have a strong self-centering tendency that feels rather artificial, as if a rubber band were always pulling the wheel back to center.

Safety features are rather basic. The Elantra features ABS with EBD brakes (all discs on the 1.8 liter variant), airbags (single for the 1.6-liter MT, dual for the 1.8 AT and the 1.6E).

The Elantra promises excitement and a high-tech driving experience with its dynamic exterior. The excitement will have to come from looking at the car in your garage or washing it every Sunday, and the high-tech elements cannot front knowing that the car's engine and gearbox are the very items that Hyundai has to offer.

THE "FLUIDIC SCULPTURE" [illegible]

Bittersweet Malaysia trip for Repsol team

By Alvin Uy

UNTIL THE accident that claimed the life of Marco Simoncelli got in the way, Team Repsol Honda had a very good showing of a 1-2-3 position at the starting grid in the Malaysian Moto GP at the Sepang Circuit recently.

While Repsol rider Casey Stoner had already been crowned this year's MotoGP champion, a 1-2-3 finish at the Sepang International Circuit would have made racing history for Repsol Honda as the only team to do so. Stoner's teammate Dani Pedrosa took pole position (clocked by Stoner and other fellow rider Andrea Dovizioso as Saturday's qualifying race. But on Sunday, after one and a half laps around Sepang, the Repsol Honda team was denied of a place in history with fourth place to Dovizioso. Ironing is a first such.

HONDAWAN CHAMPS: managing director for Gold Bush, and Repsol's international business manager for Lubricants Carlos Pascual

It was also an unforgettable day for the Philippine Repsol delegates who watched the horrifying accident at Repsol's corporate suite facing the race track. Gold Bush Global Distributor Corp., the country's exclusive distributor for Repsol lubricants invited some key Repsol dealers nationwide to spend the race weekend in Malaysia not only to watch the race but also to enjoy a little race around Kuala Lumpur. The group also had a chance to have a photo opportunity with Repsol rider Stan Dobrova.

In an interview with Carlos Pascual, Repsol's International Business Manager for Lubricants, he noted that the Spanish oil company was very pleased with the first three years of Gold Bush's operations as distributor for the brand. "They are above the benchmark so to speak. This cannot be in terms of sales volume only but all factors considered," said Pascual.

Gold Bush has been actively promoting Loteal motorcycle races with its Repsol National Road Race Championship which is sanctioned by the FIM and Nasmo as well as the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). In its first race, the Petron racers rolled in Metro Manila but Gold Bush managing director Normann Chin, who led the Philippine Repsol delegates to Sepang, said that by next year, they are targeting more races in the Visayas-Mindanao regions where their dealers are quite active there.

As a sign of their dealer confidence, it is quite rare for a company to represent a brand in just three years as their years mission as investor tour for its key dealers. "We did this for the first time and we at Gold Bush are happy to have made some very good partnerships with our regional dealers," Chin said.

Seen actively marketing and selling our products nationwide, we want to promote to our motorcycle racers at the grass-roots level. We have left no young to nine years old doing pocket bike racing and some of our riders in these races have been picked to race internationally," said Chin.

"Unlike before, we are the first company to represent Repsol on a dedicated level and not just gray market importation so we can properly take care of the brand because we are in the business for the long run. In addition, contrary to public perception, Repsol does not only good and high performance lubricants for automobiles. We intend to actively market its line required as well," added Chin. Gold Bush is a family owned enterprise that has been in the auto parts and additive business for over four decades. In the last three years since getting the distribution rights for Repsol, Gold Bush had also been very active in auto shows.

Thai flooding snags recovery of major automakers

TOKYO—Toyota and other major automakers have begun scaling back production because of parts shortages from suppliers in flood-affected Thailand, just months after Japan's own supply chains were decimated by a triumvirate earthquake and tsunami.

The production woes stemming from Thailand's worst flooding in five decades—which has wiped out hundreds of factories in recent weeks—came just as Toyota and others bounce back from the March 11 quake disaster that destroyed untold parts suppliers in Japan's northeastern Tohoku region and upended car production around the world.

The disruptions from the two similar disasters are prompting manufacturers to reconsider how they select suppliers of parts for their vehicles. Risks can be lowered if parts manufacturers are spread out over more regions.

"One of the lessons we have learned from Tohoku is that we don't want to have one single supplier for any components," Masao Mase Co. spokesman Christopher Reed said, echoing views repeatedly brought up in the industry in recent months.

Mazda was still assessing the damage from the Thai flooding, but the vehicle plant near Bangkok was unaffected so far, he said.

Isuzu, Japan's biggest automaker, suspended overtime at trucks from Monday to Friday at four domestic Toyota factories and seven group companies that assemble cars and trucks. The company estimates it will lose 6,000 units due to the outlook, spokeswoman Mitsi Tashimoto said.

That's on top of the estimated 37,000 units it lost output through Oct. 21 from its three assembly plants in Thailand, which have been shut down since Oct. 16. They will remain suspended until Friday, Tashimoto said.

Thailand, where foreign pickup trucks are popular, is also a key production hub for the company. The biggest disruptions in Japan are coming from Thai parts supplier, she said. Toyota's own parts factory there has reduced shipments.

Moody's Investors Service said production had been disrupted at more than 400 Japanese firms north of Bangkok.

The Thai flooding is dealing another blow to the supply chain that had been hurt by the March quake and will delay a full return to pre-disaster output for the automakers.

Moody's said Honda's forecast for 270 billion yen ($3.5 billion) operating profit will likely be reduced by 30 percent, but earnings for Toyota and Nissan are unlikely to be hurt very much.

AP

11 reasons why you should be at MOA on 11-11-11

Chevy Motorama kicks off festivities for the Gold Bow Tie's 100th birthday

THE CRUZE and other latest offerings of Chevrolet will be available for a test drive.

EVERYTHING big starts with a Spark and the smallest car should be the star of the show.

By Teresa R. Salazar

FILET A la lenny lardy, your soul shaking tiki feel senior from being in the "land of the dead" the whole weekend past? Pump life back into your veins, and join you fellow petrol heads in automotive nirvana at the Mall of Asia Arena Nov 11 to 13. There's where Chevrolet officially celebrates its centennial.

But, does time fly. The digital "fresh just like yesterday" certainly applies here, for it was just in 2011 that Swiss-born racing driver Louis Chevrolet (a race-car driver) and business partner William Durant co-founded the Chevrolet Motor Car Company. According to "The Car Book, The Definitive Visual History" Louis had his name assigned to the bow tie-like trade emblem from its offices at Detroit. Good thing the former officers followed the heart of the racing driving, as eventually the Chevrolet brand would amass one such legendary powerful cars as the Camaro, Bel Air, Corvette and Nomad.

Get to know more about the men behind the beginnings of Chevrolet, and then get a glimpse of its future at the Blade Hall of fame that Hall of fame on Nov. 11.

1 **It's the Gold Bow Tie's 100th birthday.** And we know how much gold can truly increase its value. It will be the grandest celebration ever of all things Chevrolet, a party to celebrate 100 years of "real-motive excellence," as Jesse Chevrolet Pollo describe it. How to celebrate a centennial? Loudly, of course, with music and the best of the classic.

2 **Feast your fabs and friends in a virtual eye candy of classic car blu-ray.** Boost many classic Chevy cars you see in a century? As many as the HDR Blues Hell 4 can pack them in, of course. A total of 13 classic Chevy cars will be on display, including the Bel Air, a C10 Stop Side pickup, and the Camaro.

3 **A new profile pic for your Facebook.** And you don't have to Photoshop yourself with your favorite Chevy car. Get up close and personal with iconic Chevrolet cars as well as the top American muscle cars, and maybe ask someone (politely, of course) to let you sit in one of the Invisible the cars. And keep an eye out for Semblance.

4 **It's not all print and stone.** It can also be print and bag as TOGZ offers low monthly payment plans for the brand. You can also get freebies when you avail of these payment plans as you buy your brand new Chevy during the event.

5 **A 100-car motorcade, and anything less should merit a traffic violation ticket.** The all-Chevy traffic stoppers happens on Nov. 12, and will be composed of classic and modern Chevys.

6 **Test drive.** What are cars for if you can't drive them, right? Get behind the wheel of the newest Chevrolet vehicles, like the popular Trax and Sonic, take them for a spin.

7 **Celebrities will give you your traffic price.** Would Chevy ambassador Bea Alonzo appreciate as an event traffic price? Or maybe his gang of fellow celebrities would make sure handing out handy traffic prizes. Heck, you might become the next celebrity even. If you have enough gumption and spunk in front of the TV camera, because the celebrations will be televised live on Studio 23.

8 **The Orlando makes its debut.** The all-new seven-seater Chevrolet Orlando, described as Chevrolet's first-ever European-style MPV that made its production debut at the Paris Motor Show last year, will be launched at the event.

9 **A glimpse of the Colorado.** In the first to premiere the all-new Chevy Colorado pickup, and be among the first to drive the brand-newly rugged sister pickup.

10 **A fashion show of Chevy's milestones.** How many pairs of Converse 100 shoes or Automotive Rhinestone Studded Chevy shoes do you have in your closet? Well, there will be a gold bow tie in every dress or suit? Who knows.

11 **Spark electrifies cars.** The Design the Spark race car contest winners (formed by engineering gals) will be launched here. Is anyone that Chevrolet's "small car with a massive attitude," else had one-word "attitude," will be the big cast of this show. The Spark is the new micro-passenger car built on a global platform that was made to withstand differences and conditions all over the world. And it's bring Chevrolet fans an second century small, fun-size, everything big name with a spark.

THE ORLANDO makes its debut.

Viva Las Vegas!

The 2011 Sema Show highlights

By Alan Uy

THE YEARS Specialty Equipment Manufacturers Association Show or more commonly known as the Sema Show, considered the premier automotive specialty products trade event in the world, takes place Nov. 1-4 at the sprawling Las Vegas Convention Center, with over 2,000 exhibitors.

The event draws most of the US auto aftermarket industry's best brands and most creative minds to show the newest and hottest offers market and power tools and trends. Many locations, its attendees are by invitation and are limited to trade visitors only, it is open all, and to note that the Philippine flag will be flying on the Sema Show with the ATI 111, a prototype all-electric sports sedan running on designed and engineered here in the Philippines by team of Filipinos.

Last year, the show drew more than 130,000 attendees and had a total of over 1,800 new product launches and the show displays are group into a dozen sections. Some members try to outdo themselves by unveiling more creative and cutting edge products for automotive OEM and after market industry to prove their ingenuity. Sema takes a look at some of the highlights this year.

Mustang Convertible

Ford Mustang fans and classic car collectors will be eager to check out the faithful reproduction of the classic '65½ ponycar, 0 into a dually 1st lightweight aircraft-grade aluminum frame, with motion sensor covered to the same exacting specifications as an F-16 fighter jet canopy. The current mpTop is designed to fit all 2-door Mustangs (it models from 2005-2011. A 4-door version is currently under development. Ford Roadster will have a prototype on exhibit as well.

Power convertible top for Jeep Wrangler

Roadsters will unveil the first ever, power-operated convertible top for Jeep's iconic Wrangler featuring the all-new mpTop that transforms the Wrangler into an open top 4x4 adventure vehicle with a simple push of a button. Made in the US using a Haartz Stayfast fabric, it uses a manually-operated system that allows the top to be opened or closed in less than 30 seconds.

i-Tune your car! i-Want!

SCT Performance addition the word iTune so it offers bolt-on performance with any 2006-2011 Ford gas or diesel engine vehicles in just 15 minutes with a wireless iPod, iPhone or iPod solution. Designed with the ease-of-use in mind, its iF-SCT system unleashes the car's hidden performance potential by seamlessly recalibrating the vehicle's computer for optimum horsepower and torque curve increase in throttle response and even increased fuel economy. Dubbed as the first vehicle tuning and monitoring "Made for iPod (iPhone iPod touch users" the iTSX interfaces OBD-II on-board diagnostics 2nd generation interface plugs into the vehicle's OBD-II diagnostic connector and communicates with any of the cool Apple devices via a secure Bluetooth wireless connection.

Mario Andretti Edition Chevrolet Camaro

High performance exhibitor company Magnaflow will display the Mario Andretti Edition 2011 Chevrolet Camaro SS for the first time featuring some of its latest offerings and thermacker SS cats from Magnaflow, Edmonds Springs and Flowtech. The specially designed Camaro is slated for auction at the Barrett-Jackson 2011 Scottsdale event so all proceeds will be given to The Wounded Warrior Project. Considered as one of the greatest race car drivers of the 20th century, Andretti makes regular appearances at the Sema show.

Richard Petty Mustangs, Chip Foose 'Gulfwing'

A regular exhibitor in Sema, BASF Automotive Refinish Industries will showcase several world-class customized cars and feature their refurbishment and custom color formula and 3M Auto based paint technology with celebrity appearances by custom car designer and TV personality Chip Foose and Ryan Friedinghorn of West Coast Customs. The two famous designers have regular shows on Speed's Velocity and are very good friends even with Discovery's Fabio celebrity-themed shows.

Chip Foose, known for his custom muscle TV reality shows like "Overhaulin" will unveil the latest creation—a 2007 Shelby GT500, "Gulfwing" with colors/livery as he launches 12 new Foose Signature Colors he designed for BASF. Aside from this, BASF will showcase two more customized Mustangs this year—the Daryl Greene Mustang built by Pierre Carter Customs that was featured in Ryan's September episode of Inside West Coast Customs that the Richard Petty Signature Series Mustang built by Petty's Garage. Both of these vehicles are painted with BASF's R-M Dupli-Color basecoat/clearcoat system.

Show Time

A rundown of major car shows in November

Nov. 24-27: The biggest bumper in automotive wedding and customization will once again bring out their newest, most innovative and most wonderful to-spot cars and technology for the 2011 Manila Auto Salon at the SMX Convention Center in Mall of Asia. Over 150 models, hard cars, trucks and sport utility vehicles will compete in four major competitions.

November 4-6: Lucky Travels Productions places Pampanga's Mutya-Kid in the entertainment capital with its Metro Rides 3 Pampanga. This second installment comes after a previous successful campaign in the city of NP Lim Palace of Dreamers' mascot cars—Mutya-Kid, Mutya-Kid Jr., Mutya-Kid Mini—in Pampanga was a hub for anything and everything dreamers in the local car culture. From hot rods to muscle cars to the gas-guzzling sedans of the 1960s to the 1970s, important cars were placed on display since the 20 or so have ever still in Clarkfield.

Nov. 22-26: Resorts World Manila will have a classic and vintage car display from custom-jeepney designing from the 1930s to the 1970s along the hallways of its upcoming Newport Mall. The cars were to segment each decade by showcasing one or two car models that represent the vintage and classic car style after the so-called Bicol or "Streamline" jeepney to the first World War. Prior to the late 1950s, approximately 10 percent of all civilian built cars were type and by the late 1960s, almost all car designs had closed cockpits.

LIFESTYLE Parenting

Don't spank the grandma

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

The coming of my first grandchild was a long, long waiting-to-exhale moment for me

NAAAH! I can feel a tiny heartbeat in my tummy! Will call you tomorrow. Hope Tony is really okay. Good night!"

A year ago on Dec. 26, that SMS from Rissi was sent to me in Baguio, where I had just informed her Sydney Rolly that his eldest daughter was four months pregnant and had chosen to be a single mom. It was not an easy announcement to make.

After his initial shock and acceptance, I felt the burden of motherhood lift.

Then I started myself to quickly dwelling on certain matters to console the mother-to-be's and her baby's overall well-being.

Before Christmas, Rissi and I moved out of the locally rented earth's home in Pasig, into a modest room in Hidalgo Street, UP Village. My three-flat room through the help of friends, as in I sent out word to rent me back if they found a vacancy near their homes.

When Ayala Philippines went to the extent of freeing cap attendances from her busy school so we could drive from street to street in the UP-Teacher's Village area, searching for "room for rent" signs.

It was a naive way to find a room that was fit for, and maybe even above where she lived, by some, rather than shocking the cheapskate, a wise-to-the-world Pilipino told me.

Next was to get Gina enrolled in the weekly childbirth preparation classes of Mercy Ribeiro on Mahusay Street, a walking distance from the room. I immediately shed my concern if there was a way to correct the baby's position, a daily pleasure proviso. The previous obstetrician said there was no concern but a Caesarean.

Here's where I admire Mercy for her zeal. She said to make Kiel be on her side—I forget now if it was left or right—every night.

That meant my getting up at midnight or anytime after that just to check if Kiel was sleepy on her side. If she was on her back, I'd gently nudge her to turn.

By December, the ultrasound showed that the baby was in a normal position, and Kiel could travel to Baguio for Christmas.

Some time in January, I was worried again that her tummy wasn't showing pronouncedly enough, although her appetite was good and she was taking the necessary supplements. I headed straight to the house of her new ob-gyn, Melen Jones. Another cool woman, she said: "Let's listen to ultrasound to check for small gestation."

Well, that litany common sound we share on the ultrasound screen where I can see moving the size and that I breathed easily again.

The coming of my first grandchild was a long, long waiting-to-exhale moment for me. Kiel became my teacher. She grew pounds, remained strong, diligently reported for work up to her ninth month (climbing staircase to get to the train to get to her office and back to QC).

She told me how she willed herself to always be happy for her child because she wasn't sure they would be accepted by my mother, other siblings, and even her younger sister Ida.

NEXT >

HSBC VP retail branch head Dinky Peralta, HSBC Philippines president and CEO Tony Cripps, Nini Linares

HSBC's Tony Cripps, Lawrence Sinco, HSBC Premier VP Michelle Go-Tanjangco

HSBC SVP area retail banking head Agnes Santos-Reboso Yap, HSBC group communications and corporate sustainability SVP Johanna Garcia

HSBC do Jovin...Nini Linares

Cebu high society flash beautiful smiles

WEE TEETH. Beautiful smiles. That is what Metro Dental's newest branches in Robinsons Cybergate and SM City Cebu is all about, pulangguo.

Dr. Rhine Mark Gan, president and CEO of Metro Dental, and Rene Buenaventura, vice chair of Equicom's Group of Companies, formally opened the new branches.

The launch was graced by celebrity Kim Chiu, a daughter of Cebu.

Other Metro Dental officers in attendance included Dr. Jeanne Barina and Dr. Charity Amor Cruz.

"Metro Dental aims to turn the Philippines into a country-by-smiles and its regional expansion to Cebu is a step to make this happen," said Gan.

Unveiled during the launch was "Cebu Smiles," a photo exhibit by nine beautiful cebu photographers Xander Angeles presenting the dazzling smiles of Cebu's elite and distinguished personalities.

"Cebu Smiles is an exhibit highlighting the beautiful smiles of our city's pride," said Gan. "It aims to serve as an inspiration to Filipinos to take care of their dental health and become aware of technologies that combine oral healthcare in the Philippines."

Check this out, pulangguo: Metro Dental's unique advantage is its core of full-time licensed dentists, who are all well-versed with the latest dental techniques and state-of-the-art equipment.

"The fact that our practitioners undergo continuous training further ensures that our patients get the care and treatment they deserve," said Gan.

Metro Dental branches are at Abreeza Mall, Eurovida II, Marquee Mall, Tchavona, Eastwood, Newtown Grenadilla, Robinsons Place, Robinsons Galleria, Cybergate Cebu, SM North Edsa, Bluewalk, Cebu, Fairview, Sta. Mesa and Marilao.

Soon to open: Filinvest Mall, SM Pampanga, SM Sta. Rosa, and Pioneer, Sta. Rosa.

More info? Call MDENTAL (6336825) or visit www.metrodental.com.ph

KIM Chiu

EQUICOM Group of Companies vice chair Rene Buenaventura

LAWYER John Gonzales

PHINMA B&S CEO Rose Lim

CHARLENE Go

S&SMD blogger and stylist Krys Uy

CEBU'S Bravo couple Mey and Bernie Jopson

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Photos by Alex Ian Hagans powered by nikon P&AC center

CEBU personality Paul John Castillo, Metro Dental president and CEO Dr. Sisters Mark Gan

Asia CEO Forum

Dash Thasi Mendis is now the host of the Asia CEO Monthly Forum, organized by Cedric Associates, so says:

Asia CEO Forum is a monthly forum organized by an alliance of Filipino and foreign businessmen who seek to promote the Philippines as a premier business destination among global decision makers.

In the recent Asia CEO Forum, chaired Jacool vice president Irish Bustamante was the speaker. The forum was attended by heavyweights in the corporate and business world. Jubilee.

HSBC conversations

HSBC president and CEO Tony Cripps held the bank's first Market Conversations and Outlook for a 4th edition group of HSBC Premier customers at his swanky South Forbes Park home.

The happening started off with delectable pan-asian nibbles, such as sampy rolls with roasted duck filling, succulent prawn rolls in Thai chili dip, and the superb lemongrass cream brulee...delishgo.

Cripps gave a short economic briefing that covered Asia's key markets, as well as the HSBC outlook for the Philippines.

Cliff Cabangbang, HSBC VP for wealth management and product development, then talked about the bank's newest product for its Premier customers, the Premium Currency Plus, "to protect that offers potentially higher returns for investors willing to take on more risk."

Before coming to the Philippines, Cripps was HSBC's managing director and head of global markets in Australia. He was also HSBC's area-locally head of foreign exchange and rates strategy in the late '90s.

Aside that Tony assured the bankers that given the very shockingly positive feedback, Market Conversations would be a regular event for HSBC's most valued Premier clients.

"With this event, we hope to provide our clients with a highly informative, as well as enjoyable, evening," Cripps said.

LAWSON Sandoval and Rajesh Mahtani of Jones, Mitchi Lucas of PLDT, Rina Montenegro of Northgate Ayala

JENNIFER Dupré...Brock Donald and Graham Gallner of Multinational Investing Support Services

RICHARD Hilo of Chubb Associates, guest speaker Dirk Diamonton, Sheila Lobrano, Jose Hernandez of PLDT, Rebecca Bonaventure of Chubb Associates

STORE coordinators May Mercado, Eve Buenaventura, Melany Villarma, Annie Baraa, Kris Montano, Vilma Pacalyan

TALENTED designer Rio Esparcia

VICE Perez de Tagle, Ari de Guzman

Cesare and Jean-Marie's house is maximalist, offbeat–but it works

By Margie C. Enriquez
Lifestyle Editor

MAXIMALISM IS nothing new to Filipinos who, for fear of empty spaces, tend to fill up their homes. But it took to the residence of artists Cesare and Jean Marie Syjuco recently to encounter that offbeat approach.

Their style goes beyond the trademark capricious layering of treasures and patterns, and a hasty and eclectic mélange of eras, styles and atmospheres. It's a curatorial experience.

"As artists, they wanted their personal works prominently featured in the shows which, over time they had collected" over the years and some new stuff. I did a lot of editing, though," says Leni Alberto, titled landscape and interior designer.

ART: Marie Syjuco's installation of a Pinoy wooden artist tucked in an Ivanovo bed and Angel Shelbi in the back

THE LIVING room is a medley of styles. Cesare's Bauhaus-era "Many Rising" is beside an elaborate Buddha and Jingdezhen oxblood ceramic jars.

Bold structure

The bold lines of the structure, designed by architect Al Mateo, and the solid materials of brick, stone, pine, aluminum, wooden steel and glass, complement the strong pieces of the owners. From the outside, the glass cubism-mirrored makes a statement. On the inside, the surrounding "natural" walls reflect the glass screen wall to bring in more light. The skylight will close the function of connecting the rooms.

Jean Marie explains that the house incorporates "green design." The house is to be "the architect applies passive cooling. We use low shade such as the bougainvilla; roofing, which needs 15 percent of the heat. We installed a bioshelf system on the roof for hot water."

Bold composes the décor style to the aesthetics of literary and multimedia artist Cesare Syjuco. He points at the "Bat, tribute to Wong Kaning" installations, a picture frame hanged on a glass cube with a number of antique medallions and stamps on, as an example.

"The house is like Ami—full. He didn't want a main focal point, which is typical in decor. He wanted many focal points so that there's something to look at everywhere. I wanted to bring in the outdoors by putting pebbles/trees inside the house. You get an unobstructed view of the garden because there are no shades."

Mixed media

Initially, multimedia and performance artist Jean Marie topped Allied because of his passion. He ended up doing the entire landscape and subsequently the interior. "I definitely evoke a mild tropical in general, balanced by the multilevel texture of their Buddha collection and exotic touches found by flashes of copper words in neon light at strategic spots.

The outdoor adventure is softened by yellowbells and Japanese pulowanpus trees, golden bottle brush, coastal senglad, red salads, bamboo bushes and tall groundfox.

"When people ask us to describe our works, we say, you have to experience it," says Jean Marie.

At the entrance, the couple is represented by their pieces. Jean's "Blue" animals, resembling abstract wings on acrylic on canvas, immediately grabs the visitor's attention.

"The work is like the Texas farmers. You disconnect them and change their position," she explains.

Glass reflection

Considering the street terrain, a glass sidewall, lined with bulb, is inscribed with Cesare's poetry. The wall not only provides a view of the perfect garden, shaded by a giant pandan tree. The neon letters "Intra" are flanked on the back wall. When reflected on the glass wall, it spells "Patrick," which means forever.

"You feel the poetry as you look, read and move to space. Its glass reflection makes you realize it's philosophical," explains Jean Marie on her husband's work. Cesare's Gonzaga Hybrids, poetry set on backlit panels and multimedia backgrounds, are omnipresent in the house. He artworks actually pull in all the décor elements in the house. The wall is background for a giant jade dragon in staple for jade, Jean Marie's choice. There Tang horse and other Intarsias are juxtaposed with Jean Marie's multimedia work, "I am the shadow of two voices/ dates by the Inlet mirror of the windowpane," made of plastic mirrors and stickers with egg-shaped mirror and branches.

Lush landscaping

Beneath the mirror-clad, stainless-steel clad wall lies two water pyramids and a sandbox adjacent to Cesare's Library shelved with his poetry. "Art Show cases? I found them in my butterfly chest..."

Also sun wall, a backlit tiny fields another work, "My Friends are weird. My friends are birds. My friends are weird birds."

What makes it interesting is that pool is surrounded by indigenous cantuses of glass and water. There also lurk the poetry, thereby creating a quiet dialogue.

"The installation is essential to the experience of the house," says Jean Marie. However, the ephemeral of the space makes it challenging to capture it on camera.

The silkscreenesque juxtaposition of styles gives the house a fresh look. Cesare's Library displayed atop a gilt bronze Buddha and a Chinese Qing accessories as Jean Marie's installation of a Peole-carved Buddha with lightbulb on his head is set by a third lifted with Marian pharmacy. Pet dogs in ceramic and gilt wood, antique Chinese bronzes and a glass and twig vessel of dried leaves.

In the den, a Tibetan lacquered cabinet is juxtaposed with a black leather chair and Cesare's Lightbox are. It's quite common to see the mid-century designer leather chairs with Chinese antiques.

The kitchen by the lanai is a

ART: Cesare's poem by Jean Syjuco on Backlit by the Virgin of Guadalupe and Homosexual masterpiece Cesare's exhibit poem's to the right.

MINE: Several pieces dominates the bar. Down by the architect, the nose-shaped circular seat was a design competition.

BUZZING: A suction under the hanging mopeled, a native tree, and sonic peaceful vibes around the pebble.

dominion of staple ordinary and common made of Mindanao pieces, which is mixed in Bowed and polished in body.

Another highlight

The landscaping is another highlight of the house. The living room faces a mini lagoon composed of water plants, mild cattle fern, cine palms, Salvia, ardesia hemp shrubs, spathyphyllum, reidis and flowering vines covering bloomdless stones. A marble Buddha holding stalkens lends a feeling of serenity.

Through small in size, the adjacent garden is dotted with tree ferns, philodendrons, spider lilies, a beguiling tree, pink and white salvinias flowers, bamboo in shrubs and bluebells.

There are bonsais of red barleys and Cesare's pet project with Chinese elms, lucerne and guava trees. At night the ingenious of accessory like the air. It is fitting that a neon pyramid lights up with the passage "God Speaks to Cesare."

Both the friendly workmen under a giant tarp eating was that known by the pool. "The geese wild in the Guidotenes. The large leaves form is cramps. I hope more Filipinos discover this tree and use it for private landscaping," says Gilad.

"Tonight the house is cozy but dramatic because of the neon colors—red, blue, yellow and violet," says Jean Marie. "Violet contrasted on our minimal condominium, but they work."

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THE SCHOOL of Fashion and the Arts 1st indoor decoration workshops will start on Nov. 5.

TAGAYTAY Highlands' Nancy N. Dizon helps kids from DSAPI prepare for their horse rides. (right) Rio's Chop explains how she would love to see Head and Shoulders shampoo on this miniature horse as it was born into salt hair.

Don't spank the grandma

From page C1

Aks Butones

And so it came to pass. Kat Mykonos, aka Butones (my private nickname) is invited to Baguio with her mother, who has kept an online job but complains of not being able to communicate when the baby starts a new speak. Kimi can't help but get up, leave the computer at standby mode, and play with Butones.

My own nanny Winnie Velasquez said, after visiting us in Baguio and on the bus back to Cubao, "Wa have to agree that the baby has pare of Gabby's genes. Like madaldal finally to have companione again after living alone in that house for over a year."

The support from my network of friends makes me feel grateful to this day.

Once the word was out that Kimi was looking for a yaya, nannie formale in Baguio (especially updated), ate Rina Daniel Lee, an Education graduate from Benguetan who needed to save up and re-view for her board exams next year.

As for Butones, the number of admirers on my own Facebook wall rules look for ward to my documentation of her growth from teensmall. It's as if she's everyone's baby.

Mila Aguilar, who prayed fervently that Butones right herself in Kimi's womb, said as the first photo I posted of new lola and apo, "She really has a cute button nose." Glenda Jane, she commented: "Where do I get your hair, girl?"

By then, the skin of the fully breastfed baby had filled out and received close to burning from braids.

Alma Ritchie asked: "When are you going to bring her down to meet Church Gall? Our prayer and bible study group? Any yaya suggestion, any pamphlets?"

Even those who haven't met her in person radiate when they see the latest photos: "Ang laki na niya! Kamukha na."

My mother, after worrying all her eyelids, got swollen after Kat departed for Baguio on June, sent stolen Emperor long-distance calls to Baguio and declared that the summer he put on Butones' ear as she chants a soothing, "Mamama mamama mama" over and over. That was how she put the infant to sleep in her first two and a half months in Hong (she arrived in back a few weeks before Kimi's due date).

Nelly's biggest, and oddest question is an inspiration. "When will she start to talk?" It led become his morning and evening ritual to carry Butones and whisper "Tatamaral" into her ear. I think the 3rd of his breath and the audible on his chin send her into a fit of giggles.

Departing this long weekend, Ida will join us in Baguio as we can all pose for what I hope to be a new Christmas tradition—a family portrait to be framed into an e-card. The last time I had my own children pose for a Christmas card was in the late '80s when they were four and two, respectively.

Who else in the world the mature grandchildren are spoiled is because everyone is afraid to spank the grandma?

A 'worry-free day' and photo exhibit for children with disabilities

"LET'S GET High" is the title of the latest PWD artistry of advertising photographer John Chua's band of merry volunteer photographers. PWD stands for "Photography With a Difference," a brainchild of Chua that aims to volunteer photographers to support and promote increased awareness for organizations of children with disability.

The second event was held inside the exclusive property of the Tagaytay Highlands Golf and Country Club in joint partnership with Tagaytay Highlands, Canon and SM. Twenty children and their families from the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines (DSAPI) and Parent Advocates of Visually Impaired Children (PAVIC) were treated to a special day under

VOLUNTEER photographer Abby Elia at the Highlands Zoo with Melissa Warren from DSAPI. RAYMUND SARMIENTO

the guidance of Chua's photographers.

Activities for the day included horseback riding, miniature horse grooming, mini golf, fishing, cable car rides and pizza making.

Throughout the day, officers from Tagaytay Highlands, Canon and SM participated actively, along with the volunteer photographers, including Tagaytay Highlands Golf Jim Ignatowski Affairs Henry N. Ong, SM SVP and chair for Disability Affairs Jose Ma. Lao, and Canon Marketing head Marge Saavedra.

For more than a year now, Chua's group of photographers, composed of both hobbyists and professionals, have dedicated themselves to making a difference for organizations of children with disabilities through their photography.

"We try and give them a worry-free day so that they can enjoy each other's company," says PWD Core Group head Sarina Dalay. "The job of our volunteer photographers is to capture these shared moments in an image with our cameras."

"For many of these parents, raising a child with disability is double the effort compared to parents with children without disabilities," says singer Lapena, whose son Jeremy has Down Syndrome.

Linda Clay, whose daughter Kiara is visually impaired, adds: "You only do we get through the usual pressures of raising a child, but we also have to look out and deal with the inquisitiveness of our child's special needs."

Photos taken during the "Let's Get High" event will be exhibited in the Atrium at The Block in SM North Edsa on Oct. 31-N. 6. A second exhibit will be held at Tagaytay Highlands at a date to be later announced.

New mobile phone scam

THE CONSUMER
Linda B. Bolilan

If YOU are a postpaid mobile phone client and you get a message saying you are going to get a discount in your monthly bill, don't start thanking God yet for your good fortune. Check with your network to make sure the message is legitimate.

I got this message recently on my mobile: "Globe: You've the one selected postpaid plan given 35 percent discount billing, on get your 35 percent discount billing, just text 150 send to 2986161618. Thank you Globe postpaid subscriber."

Several things made me have second thoughts about the message, after the initial excitement. For one thing, it came from a regular mobile phone number. Second, people have reported to me that legitimate announcements/alerts coming from them are sent from three- or four-digit numbers.

Bad grammar was another giveaway. Messages from networks are not this badly constructed. I also could not understand the number 150. If it represented the discount I was supposed to get then it was way below the actual amount.

I verified with Globe the legitimacy of the message and, as I suspected, it was another scam, although they did not explain how it was supposed to work. I was thinking that by sending this I would be transferring that much load to the message sender.

Globe immediately disconnected the line. Of course, the scam artist will probably just get a new number.

Aside from alerting your network, you may also want to bring suspicious messages like this to the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission's Citizen Zoop Public Assistance Center (Citpac). It may be emailed at info@nte.gov.ph or texted at telephone numbers 9218501 and 9365781.

NTC-CITPAC occasionally sends out reminders to the public not to believe messages asking for load, cash, bank account numbers and other sensitive information. It may want to add this new concern to next reminder.

Incidentally, after last week's editorial on some cyber-addicted co-ciphin how data were crowded phones...such as e-mail—were charged. It seems that e-mail is charged according to the size of the message, including attachments. So, even if you do not use your phone for anything else other than to keep track of your mailboxes, your bill can shoot up if you are regularly receiving large files.

I guess the moral of the story is to program your mobile to receive only messages for the mailbox that is of genuine importance to you. You can check your other mailboxes in your computers or use IMIS, if your want to reduce your mobile internet charges.

Feedback

Hari Singh is another mobile phone user who says he is being charged for internet, "which I absolutely do not use." He refuses to pay the charges although he says stress caused by the bill and demand letters from internet are causing harm to the public.

He hopes that a legislator will also suffer from "bill shock" so the public will get his/her attention. I doubt though that legislators get to see their bills to experience shock. I am also sure they do not pay personally for their phone use and pass on the charges to ordinary taxpayers.

Another "shocked" mobile phone user is Dan V. Espino, who has a BlackBerry. He also does not have a Facebook or Twitter account, although he subscribes to BlackBerry Messenger. With smartphones becoming so widely used, he wishes government regulators will soon look into how network charge clients for their use.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5/F Chino Roces Ave. cor. Ilaw Ave., Bgy. 666, 1200 Makati City; fax (02)892-94, or e-mail lbolilan@inquirer.com.ph.

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Opening This Week

Aswang

Directed by Jerrold Tarog; stars Lovi Poe, Paulo Avelino, Jillian Ward, Marc Abaya, Precious Lara Quigaman, Albie Casiño, Bembol Roco

Cursed by a horrific series, divorcé Isolde (Poe) falls for a reluctant assassin (Avelino). Poe praises indie director Tarog for having "fresh ideas." "He's very meticulous and knows what he wants to achieve in every scene," says Poe. Avelino agrees: "Direk Jerrold taught me to study my character thoroughly. But he allows us to experiment as well," the recalls: "He guided me in my transformation into a wild animal."

LOVI Poe and Paulo Avelino in "Aswang"

NIKOLE Kidman and Cam Gigandet in "Trespass"

The Thing

Directed by Shaldja van Heijningen Jr., stars Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Joel Edgerton, Ulrich Thomsen, Eric Christian Olsen

A deadly alien wreaks havoc in a research station in the Antarctic ice. Chicago Tribune's Michael Phillips calls this homage to a 1982 classic "an entertaining, well-acted nonclone." USA Today's Steve Bowles described it as "just better film, part space thriller and all-survivor." Village Voice's Bryan Miller scores: "John Carpenter should approve of this reasonably respectful and rough-minded prequel."

Tower Heist

Directed by Brett Ratner; stars Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy, Alan Alda, Matthew Broderick, Gabourey Sidibe, Tea Leoni, Michael Peña, Casey Affleck

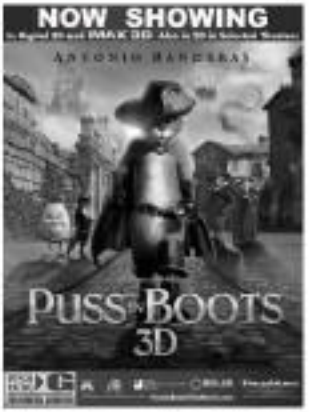
Big-time employees, led by inexperienced manager (Stiller), scheme to rob the millionaire (Alda) who took their savings. Contentmovie.org points out: "His all-star comedy appears to promote crime as being justified under the right circumstances. Screenmovies observes that it's "very much in the vein of Ratner's 'Rush Hour.'" Nichols Bottanson reviewer thinks there's "high potential for a great heist flick here." Opens Friday.

Trespass

Directed by Joel Schumacher; stars Nicole Kidman, Ben Kingsley, Ben Mendelsohn, Cam Gigandet, Liana Liberato, Jocelyn Quivrin

Held captive by kidnappers, a married couple (Cage, Kidman) huddles under the protection of a safe room. The New York Times' Stephen Holden rants it up as "a belabored, laughable melee of sound, fury." San Francisco Chronicle's Mark LaSalle remarks: "It's a strange variety of entertainment that looks and behaves nothing." Variety's Joe Leydon relates: "Working intricately within genre conventions, [it] manages to spring a few surprises."

BEN Stiller and Matthew Broderick in "Tower Heist"



GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPH BY JEO ARRIOLA

PUGAD BABOY BY PHIL LUGOD

DICK TRACY BY JOE STAITON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVEHUNTS BY ELIZABETH MCDONALD

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

RHEA TRACHEME BY FRANK ABERIA

SEIH BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY MAIA CO-LI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Don't be a follower or passive person today. Be a leader and take charge. Be creative and innovative. Participate in clubs or take a class that involves technology. Romance is in the air. Love is on your side. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. Your partner will appreciate your honesty and sincerity.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way. Don't let someone else's negativity bring you down. Keep your chin up and your shoulders back. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. Be careful when it comes to your finances. Don't make any investments or loan money.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Conversations with your peers will be most beneficial. Be sure to keep your options open. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Pursue a new interest or hobby. You can't learn anything if you don't ask questions. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Don't be afraid to ask for help. You may need to rely on others to get you through the day. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Don't allow others to take advantage of you. Be careful when it comes to your finances. Don't make any investments or loan money. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You've got big ideas about how to improve your home. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Conversations with siblings, neighbors and relatives will be most important. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't be afraid to ask for help. You may need to rely on others to get you through the day. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You've got big ideas about how to improve your home. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Don't allow others to take advantage of you. Be careful when it comes to your finances. Don't make any investments or loan money. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Don't think you'll have to work alone. People in social settings. Friends in the know will help you get ahead. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Don't get involved with others. Romance, however, awaits. Don't be afraid to express your feelings. Romance is in the air. Be open to suggestions, but don't be afraid to do things your own way.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more puzzles go to www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

4	1	7	3	6	9	8	5	2
3	5	6	8	2	7	9	1	4
9	2	8	5	1	4	3	6	7
5	3	1	6	7	2	4	9	8
7	8	4	9	5	3	6	2	1
6	9	2	1	4	8	5	7	3
8	6	5	7	3	1	2	4	9
1	7	3	2	9	6	1	8	5
2	4	9	4	8	5	7	3	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Taylor

		8	4				2	5
	5					9		
9					2			
5					6			
3					9			
8	2	6			3	5	1	
7			6		8			1
6			9		4			2
	9	1				4	6	

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Lower arm
5 Cleaning process
10 Wrestling surface
14 Muscle problem
15 Muscle problem, for short
16 Theaters
17 Tattoo image
18 Drive confidence to
19 Where birds hide or sneak
20 Artistic talent
21 Chemical used to preserve
22 Football Hall of Famer
23 Contemporaneous
25 Eggs
26 Ice-making
27 Of a particular shape
28 Lab tube
29 Lady National Golfer Hall of Famer
30 Home for 22 Across
34 Number used
35 Mr. Rogers's
36 Horizontal, for one
37 Actor Wilson
38 Lose a bathroom queen
39 Actress Ryan
40 Turn downward
41 Tiny bit, two words
42 Beverage
43 Feeling for today or soon
44 Unsolicited calling
45 Classroom order
46 Bird droppings
47 Cookware
48 Introductory line
49 Employer for technicians
50 Pastime

DOWN

1 Professionals' gathering
2 Football Order
3 Actress Hatcher
4 Harbor dweller
5 Contemporaneous outrage
6 Contemporaneous social customs
7 Cooking
8 Poetry
9 Fitness device
10 Painter's basics
11 Hydrocarbon mixture
12 Sound-off joint
13 Succeeding
14 Contemporaneous
15 Clothes
16 Actress Mirabella
17 Author's age, at death
20 Contemporaneous
21 Contemporaneous
22 Fatigues
23 Like many territories
24 Contemporaneous
25 Contemporaneous
26 Hallucinogenic
27 Contemporaneous
28 Hallucinogenic
29 Contemporaneous
30 Hallucinogenic
31 Contemporaneous
32 Hallucinogenic
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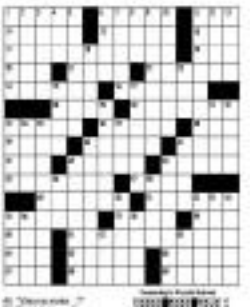
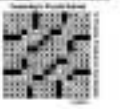


Answer to previous puzzle



Sexy Starlet...

Blue"). "Sige, si Sam [Milan] muna ng kanya... Si Gian Martin na lang!" (Hailey Sarce)

● Bianca Evangelista, admitted that her relationship with Daniel Matsunaga: "I think my nickname [Sean is a sister. Anyway it's all about my love life all the time..." (What else is new?)

● Bianca Soto on Pia Guanio getting married recently: "Alang sumuway nacast kasi lamok na ako sa iilang engrandeng kasal ito."

● Dennis Trillo, asked about the relationship between his ex-fiancée Jennylyn Mercado and Patrick Garcia: "Hindi ko man lang nakausap [Jennylyn] sa kanilang dalawa. Medyo naman kasing busy ito [Patrick] at saka nahahalata. One day at a time lang ho muna." (Ador.)

● Zanjoe Marudo and Rayment Gutierrez on rumors that they have separated: "We are still together. We have not separated, we love each other, and we both value and cherish our marriage and relationship." (Sa, others) the POST)

● John Lloyd Cruz on his relationship with Shaina Magdayao: "Sa ngayon, ang mga ano lang. Happy-happy muna... they're not looking good." (As told to SPHOTO.) (Sherrielle, IC Liza, with Allan Pulvera pics, Cassie Buchar)

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: IN TIME
2: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
4: REAL STEEL
5: THE THING
6: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
7: IN TIME

GREENBELT 1
1: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
2: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

GREENBELT 2
1: IN TIME
2: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
3: THE THING
4: I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT
5: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
2: IN TIME
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
4: THE THING
5: I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
2: IN TIME
3: PUSS IN BOOTS
4: 30 MINUTES OR LESS/3 MUSKETEERS

MARKET! MARKET!
1: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN
2: 30 MINUTES OR LESS
3: THE THING
4: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
5: IN TIME
6: ATAWANG
7: RESERVED

TRINOMA
1: ATAWANG
2: REAL STEEL
3: PUSS IN BOOTS (3D)
4: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3
5: THE THING
6: IN TIME
7: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

ABREEZA
1: PUSS IN BOOTS
2: PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 3
3: IN TIME
4: PRAYBEYT BENJAMIN

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Guy, Osang have mutual admiration thing going

MISS Junior and Bossing Boss should put up a mutual admiration club. They're gotten so close to each other while doing TVJ's "Sa Ilalim ng Kot" to the point that they oft ends other with the hints of endearment "mareche."

But of course it's still in jest, because of a before word in respect to their special

ROSANNA Roces

MISS Junior and Bossing Boss should put up a mutual admiration club. They're gotten so close to each other while doing TVJ's "Sa Ilalim ng Kot" to the point that they oft ends other with the hints of endearment "mareche."

But of course it's still in jest, because of a before word in respect to their special

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

me notion that they manage to exhibit simple joys amid the complicated lot that fo ought them together.

I heard La Bossa chose her title over pa-tacsil but the November issue of Preview mag. She shot back, "Bakit ako magsisi-sh- (laughs)?" I asked. "Mama mo po lang ang sa akin," she quipped. "Di naman pwedeng close ang isang ng mama parati ang pa-tabo to Osang."

All eyes are definitely on the Superstar!

Two queens

To appease the Hermione and to

the spirit of fairness, I also asked Ate Guy how she feels about Tita Nora's (Aunalio Fuentes) insinuations that she is not comfortable with her crown. In a previous column, I wrote that Tita Nora didn't exactly like Guy's statement in Tes Magazine that the September to no longer a list of love, because of an incident that happened between them many years ago. And true, "Some names in 'di nya-sila lan. Ariola man sila, pero lan de-sila nman."

Tita Nora and Ate Guy are both queens of Philippine cinema but from different generations. How do they sit in time and with the right modicum they will patch things up after all, queens are not fadist who can't stay mad to each other.

E-mail: sunningbun.dollygarcia@yahoo.com

NORA Aunor

Sexy Starlet snubbed by Hunky Foreigner

by the Entertainment Staff

HOT Celebrity thought she had it in the bag. As a party hosted by Cosmo wizard Personality, SC was being her usual flirty comely self.

She was trying to catch the eye of Flunky Foreigner, a world-renowned artist who is CP's guest of honor.

SC was unimpressed, though. SC tried very hard and literal. ly pushed her body to maximally-enhanced, cosmetical DP) to cool on obviously-tortured FP.

According to a study, SC stands out because FP had his eyes on a more "experienced" Filipina Performer.

Start-up

Cosmo wizard star is down in the dumps. CF is allegedly having difficulties both on the personal and professional fronts.

After emerging from a rehab programme, CF noticed that other friends have made themselves scarce, reluctant to be of assistance.

Taking pity on CF, an Old Supporter extended a helping hand. Of course it's only gone P500,000 to push CF toward the right path.

Real score?

Popular star tried to kick a sassy hush-up.

Popular star tried to kick a sassy hush-up. Instead of people to there are to each other. "Di ako nag-ano sa mga chismis kaya deadma ako sa mga tawag sa amphol kay (sic)" says Dunup. "Nakakatawa lang ha dang hahol nag-aning nagmumukha na kasi nung hahaan ngayon na nagkaroon daw kami. Club kami agad kasi pareho tayong Gemini."

Here's to hoping the sassy star inspires. "Tatlong buk nadebilang na ang taon ng buhay ko. At ngayon ko na-realize na ang pinaka-importante sa lahat ay ang pagkakaroon lang ng peace of mind," she added.

All eyes are definitely on the Superstar!

Two queens

To appease the Hermione and to

CLAUDINE Barretto

RUSHES

Misunderstood

Ate Guy and Osang are two women of substance who are often misunderstood. Seeing them chat and giggle off-cam like high school chicas made

Shrinking celeb

Formerly Chubby Dreamboat is slimming down.

CF refuses to divulge the reason for his weight loss. A source suspects CF who wrestles the wraith of those his and politics. Just monkeyspan s hustle hush-tampisil pwe rather.

Top of the Talk Shows

Top of the talk shows. For those who missed her weekend's TV guesting (And why we are guessing), A Annabelle Rama confess daughter Kelly.

Censored deduction:

"Princess is so hangbeyes. 'di kayo makinghad!" (Ung kayo ng mga ito.)

✦Pedo-wedgies, added she's the male actor he wants to kiss for on "serious

'Cutest newsman' still rocks

By Allan Policarpio
Contributor

ABERG fans in TV5 newsroom all turned up and dapper, it's hard to imagine that Reginald awaken and ang-ingenious lawyer Mike Templo was once a rocker, playing lead guitars in the '90s band Gerald.

Mike's interest in the instrument was piqued at an early age. Eldra brother Jason Templo, who is the former metal vocals frontman of rock wolfgang.

"I was inspired by my bays. I used to tag along to all his gigs. I tried picking up the bass, but ended up with the guitar, just a little bit, actually," he told the interviewer in a recent interview.

Now in his mid-30s, Mike recalled that, while growing up, he wasn't allowed to go out much. Instead he would spend his spare time at home, honing his guitar skills. He played a lot of "90s and '80s metal and hard rock. Some of his guitar idols were Zakk Wylde, Jimmy Page, Jimi Hendrix, David Agnew and of course, Eddie Van Halen.

"I had a few months of formal training in classical guitar," he said. "Then I just did it on my own. I was doing jingles ..."

Mike got his first taste of band life when he joined Gerald. He was a college student then, taking up Philosophy at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. "I had to leave the band's video experience," he said. "Life played in the Illinois Museum, Atlanta's Chris Herald ..."

The lad added: It seemed like he was on his way to a music career, Mike decided he wanted to become a lawyer

MIKE Templo

He dropped everything and attended Enjoy Law School in New York, where he earned his Juris Doctor degree.

A New York-licensed lawyer, Mike is a member of the New York State Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, New York County Lawyers Association and American Bar Association.

"Because I was part of the band scene, wow jyan (Senagal) I had done a lot of gigs. So associated. When college friends hear that I'm now a lawyer, they still can't believe it."

Mike has an immigration consultancy office in the country and co-chairs TV5's "Legal sa Singko" and "Aksyon Pinoy." He also hosts "Kapatid," "Showbiz Prinsesa," a program tackling immigration and

TV5's Mike Templo, former lead guitarist of a rock band and son of '70s star Mildred Ortega, is not eyeing showbiz

DPW's concerns.

He used to host "Crossing Borders" on ABC.

He still picks up the guitar, but only to relieve stress. He's not as good as he used to, he confessed, but still enjoys playing passionately.

Not vain

Meanwhile, Mike recently topped Spot.ph's list of the country's cutest newscasters. But they were shocked, never having thought of himself as a looker in face, he added, laughing that he used to get teased even by his family as the ugly duckling.

"I do take care of myself because, as TV, you have to look good. But I'm not all that vain, ha! I don't think I'm vain. I say 'Ang sarap na lalaki maging ako!'" joked Mike, who was once linked to Claudine Barretto and Angel Locsin.

Asked if he has plans of venturing in as those his parents, the son of "Da movie star Mildred Ortega said, clarifying, "Right now, it's a solid 'no.' I'm where I want to be, with it a low-set media."

1ST JOLLIBEE FAMILY VALUES AWARDS

Honoring 5 of the country's most exemplary families

Francisco Family: Going beyond the call of generosity & selfless service

Francisco Family
Lucena, Quezon
Winner: Youth Leader

It is heartwarming to see a family of simple ones responsible for initiating large-than-life sustainable community programs. One such family can be found in Lucena, Quezon. Edwin and Christine Francisco together with their three daughters share an admirable passion to serve others in their community.

From cooking food for the elderly and kids, engaging in tree planting activities, conducting medical missions, to donating an actual house, the Franciscos are all there to opportunities to pass on the values of generosity and selfless service.

Being parents, once gains names Jong Jazel to "stop seeing neighborhood as bonding relationships" says Edwin. "Ung makita ng kasi yung mga nakakalaro nya, nagiging mentor ko na rin," adds his wife Christine.

Since 2008, Edwin and Christine, together with

their children Patricia, Cassina and Beatrice have been conducting feeding programs to over 40 area in their city of Lucena. The feeding programs are usually held in every area where there is a public school children. They also get the entire staff and involve the children's growth as one of the focus of their programs success. Apart from this, they organize medical missions aiding children with and palates to undergoing surgery.

The family also provides opportunities for members of their community to help out. For their feeding programs, parents who have the food. They also educate other parents on taking better care of their children's nutrition and growth.

Helping others has become second nature for the Francisco household. Raising their kids to care about others, Edwin and Christine make it a point to let the joy of carving food their family together. "We try to bring it to our neighbors. Even the transient child scouts and helps prepare the food," shares Christine.

With their upbringing, it comes as no surprise that the Francisco children are growing up as excellent student leaders and caring members of society.

"Maintainment nanets as parents carrots ang pagbibigay sa Diyos kaya we believe in feeding, feeding, feeding. Siguro kung di nako-limit mas marami kami sanang maitulong ang pagkain sa pagkain-engagement. Hindi natin maitatanong sa Diyos kung ilan. Hindi natin matatanong sa dapat

maging thankful kung ano nung meron kami," shares Patricia, their eldest.

Today the Franciscos continue to lead meaningful lives as their parents continue to help others. "I want to give back. Give to your family and give to others," encourages Edwin.

Inspired by the call they family favorite Jollibee Hardworking, the Jollibee Family Values Awards recognized five exemplary Filipino families who uphold positive values and inspire their communities in unique ways.

Good News You Didn't Know to Expect

Don't you just love receiving good news? We often hope for good news. We hope to get that dream job. We hope the weather will turn out fine. Our hopes are often based on our expectations, and those are outdone by what we in turn consider possible. What makes the most pleasant surprises is the fact we often don't see them coming.

"Good day, we are pleased to inform you that we are doubling your plan's speed, at no extra cost."

Bet you didn't see that coming. All wi-tribe pure 4G Internet subscribers are getting this just right this very moment. We're only that thrilled to break the good news to everyone. wi-tribe pure 4G Internet speeds have just doubled, at no additional cost. It's true and it's real, and the best part is it's forever. This is not a promo.

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"wi-tribe pure 4G internet speeds have just doubled, at no additional cost."

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Taste Pure 4G: Now Brewing at wi-tribe

In a marketplace of ever-increasing options and similarly competitive claims, it is just right for the smart consumer to verify everything we hear. Despite the attractiveness of plastered headlines, pitches and features, often, nothing really beats having tested, tasted or tried something before we're convinced. The proof of the pudding's in the eating, after all, and don't we all want a good, hearty fill.

wi-tribe has a growing number of shops across the metro, to what the appetite of the tech-savvy Filipino internet consumer, hungry for a taste of pure 4G internet connection. We like to say that the pure 4G internet service is not limited to the Internet. We welcomed by our warm and accommodating staff who'll address your needs swiftly and promptly, and enjoy that flowing coffee as you experience pure 4G Internet at up to 3 Mbps. Bilibps and 4mbps speeds. Try which speed best fits your home's internet appetite.

Surf the Internet, watch streaming videos or even test the seamless Playstation 3 online gaming experience only wi-tribe pure 4G internet offers. Bring the family and visit the branch nearest you. Find us at Ayala Ave., cor. Salcedo St., Makati; Symbiosis Grove -A. Garnoy (Duval Road), Paranaque; Glo. Gaisswood Cybermall, Quezon City; Shangri-la Mall, EDSA cor. Mirala; Mandaluyong City; Guimin Foreslas St., Binondo, Manila; Alabang Zapote Road via. Madrigal Ave., Alabang; Ellman Commercial Center (Connaught) Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City. Visit www.wi-tribe.ph for complete information on our wi-tribe experience centers.

We are wi-tribe

wi-tribe represents a commitment to the quality enhancement of online access. It represents speed, efficiency and consistency afforded by cutting edge technology and proven service. As the Philippines' powerful itself as one of the largest internet-consuming populations in the world, wi-tribe represents the perfect home internet solution as the first and only Pure 4G internet service in the Philippines.

What is Pure 4G?

4G represents a speed standard for internet connectivity. The appropriation derives from "4th Generation", indicating its succession from older generations of internet technology. Because different platforms can be calibrated to approximate the minimum internet speeds required to be considered 4G, the standard has been defined by the ability to reach that minimum speed, rather than the technology that supports it. Older technologies like EDPS, Edge, HSDPA, and HSPA+, some of which are used in telecommunications services, can be calibrated into a hybrid form you can call "4G", if not only in name. The challenge with these hybrid "4G" models is that service quality is dependent upon the respective carrier/tech technology supporting it, resulting in speeds as equally varied.

Pure 4G, offered in the Philippines only by wi-tribe, operates on a network built specifically data. That means that service quality and speed are consistent. It means your internet providers' system does not support voice calls and other data - just rock-solid, high-speed internet only wi-tribe Pure 4G can give.

Rock Solid

wi-tribe is backed by the San Miguel Corporation, the Philippine's household brand name that guarantees quality and excellence, and by the SEA group, one of the biggest telecommunications companies in the world. Both guarantee the continuous and improving service and success of pure 4G internet in the Philippine landscape.

Fast. Pure. Now!

Aside from being hospitable, the Filipinos are also known for connecting their families. We'd prefer to do everything together. Dining, recreation, and study are all sweeter when the family's together. The internet's part of the modern Filipino family too, but my getting everyone in the family on the home internet connection at the same time. You've got Mike's homework attaching Dad's conference call, stumbling over Ate Jenny's video streaming. Not too sweet an experience now, is it?

Forget your internet can push high speeds on a freewheel open road. Chances are, your internet provider is built on technology that supports other services. Those hybrid systems feel the challenge of their age, especially when internet may not be the primary service their network is intended to deliver. Voice calls, texts and other services may be sharing space with your internet connection. It's like your classic trying to get some research done, but its assistant has music cranked up loud. Your streaming movie's trying to play but seamlessly making a voice call right next to it.

Wi-Internet is a term thrown around most frequently in the Philippine landscape right now, and everyone offering it promises speed. In territory thought uncharted, everyone is rushing to claim having the best 4G platform. Whether Wimax, LTE or HSPA+, everyone's saying they have the best 4G internet to offer. Promising to improve the quality of consumer options in this rush to 4G is wi-tribe, the only internet provider who gives you PURE 4G internet service.

Wi Pure?

wi-tribe 4G internet is the only Pure 4G internet service provider in the Philippines. Unlike other providers who operate a combination of data technologies meant to support an assorted range of services while attempting to approximate the speed of 4G, wi-tribe's 4G home network speed is consistent - it will not fluctuate, and it's built for one thing only: PURE 4G Internet. You'll always get the speed you're promised. While other providers share bandwidth for voice and other services, wi-tribe pure 4G offers you a broad and open road. Now the information superhighway is truly 4G, and wide enough to share with all your family members at home, too!

Wi so fast?

wi-tribe is Pure 4G because its infrastructure is designed specifically for 4G, and just for 4G - no older technologies are involved. This allows consistent quality internet at speeds corresponding to your subscription plan, which are now twice our already impressive previous speeds! wi-tribe Pure 4G internet is now available starting at up to 1mbps for only P999 - the most affordable 4G internet subscription currently around! There's an up to 2mbps plan at P999, and a staggering up to 4mbps for merely P1,999 a month. This means when you're social networking, doing your homework, downloading, video streaming, or all three at once, your household will enjoy the consistency of pure 4G internet at your chosen speed subscription. Your video upload isn't stalled or type with someone else's entire call, your tweet won't queue in the after someone else's MMR messaging. Your pure 4G internet breaks down the wide open road faster than it's ever done, making it the ideal 4G internet service for the home.

Wi wait?

Visit www.wi-tribe.ph or call 31-tribe (87423). We won't make you wait. If you'll decide to join the tribe and avail of pure 4G internet, our 4G-fast customer service and sales team will respond with 4G-fast home demo and installation within 24 hours of your call. wi-tribe Pure 4G internet also installs without taking your home with pesky wires and cables too. Home demos and installations are free of charge!

You can also bring your family to experience wi-tribe's 4G internet at the nearest wi-tribe shop now. Our quality customer service, free internet trial and free-flowing coffee guarantees a pleasant and hassle-free experience as can only describe as worthy of the tribe 4G.

wi subscribe now?

No lock-in for new subscribers from Nov. 2 to Dec. 2, 2011. Call 31-87423, visit our Experience Centers, or log on to www.wi-tribe.ph for details.